

Meeting Minutes – Class Advisory Senate, 21 April 2026 - FINAL

1. Call to Order: CAS President John Cinnamon, '91, called the meeting to order at 1702.

2. Members in Attendance: See Attachment 1

3. Others in Attendance:

Mark Hille, '97, President and CEO, USAFA AOG & AFAP

Cathy Almand, '90, Chairman, USAFA AOG Board of Directors

Hank Hoffman, '63, Director, USAFA AOG Board of Directors

Michael Cornelius, '00, USAFA AOG Executive Vice President, Alumni Relations

Wyatt Hornsby, Director of Communications, USAFA AOG and Foundation

Michele Bergeman, Director of Heritage, USAFA AOG and Foundation

4. Previous Minutes:

You can log into the AOG website to find copies of minutes by:

https://www.usafa.org/association_board_of_directors

then click on menu item AOG BOARD RESOURCES”; the Class Advisory Senate (CAS) link is below that.

5. John Cinnamon, '91, President Class Advisory Senate.

John opened the meeting, greeting all attendees and describing the agenda and goals for the meeting. He reminded all that our CAS priorities are: (1) “to Support to the Alumni, (2) to Support the current mission on the Hill, and (3) to Preserve our Heritage, with today’s discussion focusing on Support to the Alumni.

After his introductory remarks, he then introduced AOG Board Chair Cathy Almand, '90 for brief remarks.

6. Cathy Almand, '90, Chairman, USAFA AOG Board of Directors.

- Cathy presented a Resolution of Commendation from the AOG Board of Directors to the CAS to recognize the Class Advisory Senate. She stated that the AOG Board thought it was important to recognize the CAS for “all you do.” Thank you! “ (see Resolution attached).
- “Their professionalism, integrity, and collaborative spirit have strengthened the AOG’s ability to serve graduates, cadets, and the Academy with excellence.” “The Association

of Graduates formally commends the Class Advisory Senate for its sincere advice and enduring commitment to advancing the vision and values of the AOG;”

7. John Cinnamon, '91, President Class Advisory Senate.

- John added his thanks to all Senators and reiterated that our three CAS goals are Support to Alumni, Support to the Cadets/ Hill, and Preserve our Heritage.
- John stated that from alumni input, it has been very clear that within the Support to Alumni goal, our first priority is reunions. Members of the Executive Committee have said that the support is much better now.
- Senators stated that Classes '00 and '01 have had good support for their reunions.
- There is a priority order for reunions with the 50th Reunion class having the top priority.
- This year's priorities are 50th, 10th, 40th, 30th, 20th, and any additional ones will fall into order.
- There have been off-cycle and off-campus reunions that the AOG still supports.
- The AOG now has a primary and a part-time reunion coordinator.

- John stated that there have been some questions concerning the establishment of the AOG's **Next Generation Advisory Council.**”
- He then gave a presentation on the NextGen Council. He covered:
 - NGAC Strategic Priorities.
 - NGAC Members and Timeline.
 - The Council consists of Chairman Christian Evans, '08; Vice Chairman Mike Wagner, '97 and 19 members from classes '98 to '19.
 - Statistically-Based Themes:
 - Uses 2022 Grad Survey data.
 - Initially focused on four themes, then further narrowed them down to three with the decision that the Association and Foundation would best address “Support for USAFA Grads in Need.”
 - He covered NextGen from Insight to Activation.
 - Work after Active Duty, Support for Grads in Need, Social Activities, and Professional Development.
 - The 2026 Roadshow will include Meeting Grads where they Live, Work and Serve.
 - NGAC Sub-Committees were formed to address top concerns:
 - Career Transitions.
 - Mentorship/ Professional Development.
 - Social Activities and Communications.

 - Early wins and opportunities to improve:
 - Grad participation, Chapter leadership, Webinars.

- Proactive Chapter planning.
 - Working closely with CAS reps.
 - Drive engagement and connection with USAFA and alumni.
 - <https://usafa.org/nextgen-advisory-council>
 - See attached slides.
- Mark Hille, '97 then added: the key question here is “can we add to the value of what younger generations of grads are interested in and/ or need.”
 - Cathy Almand, '90 added that now ‘we have about half going down the flying path and half not; there is already a pipeline established for the flying path, and we need to improve on the mentorship for other career paths.’

8. Michael Cornelius, '00, USAFA AOG Executive Vice President, Alumni Relations.

- Baja added that the NextGen is there to bring up ideas.
- He stated ‘we established it as the AFA Class of '95 and younger because of the 30-year graduate life cycle;’ usually, graduates are not doing anything with the AOG until they are 30-years old. So, the question becomes, “what are we doing to support the new graduate community as they start to have families?... We need to give them a touchpoint.”
- Baja also stated this summer will see a significant change of leadership at the Academy. The new Dean, BrigGen James Valpiani, '04 is now in place. This is the first time in USAFA history that a Dean of the Faculty was selected from the line-of-the-Air Force, and not from the faculty permanent professors. It is a significant change as it may mean that he will rotate out in 3 years.
- He also stated that the new Commandant, Colonel Brandon Tellez, '01 will be on board on 22 May 2026.
- The Superintendent, LtGen Bauernfeind, '91 will retire this summer. A replacement has not yet been named.

9. John Cinnamon, '91 President, Class Advisory Senate.

- John closed the meeting by reminding everyone of our three CAS goals, (Support to the Alumni, with reunions being most important, Support to the Hill, and Preserve our Common Heritage). He asked the senators for any comments to be relayed to the AOG Board of Directors at the upcoming AOG Board meeting.
- Mark Hille, '97 added that the Association and Foundation has received an endowment to cover the cost of publication of the “Here’s A Toast: Gone But Not Forgotten” magazine, such that any graduate can receive a copy free of charge.
- Ski Wagasky, '72 asked if there was some way of providing an easier way of getting to the CAS website and minutes. Wyatt Hornsby, Director of Communications, USAFA AOG and Foundation, stated that it was easy to do and he would make it happen.

- John thanked Senators for their continued support and participation in today's discussion.

10. Other Business/ Round Table. None.

11. Next Meetings:

- AOG Board, 24 April 2026
- CAS Executive Committee, 16 June 2026
- CAS, 14 July 2026
- CAS Schedule:
<https://www.usafa.org/media/Documents/AOG%20Board%20of%20Directors%20Meeting%20Minutes/CAS%20Documents/CAS%20Meeting%20Schedule%202025.pdf>

12. Close/Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1813

Minutes submitted by: Tom Hayden '74, CAS Secretary

Minutes approved by: John Cinnamon '91, CAS President

Attachments:

1. Members in Attendance
2. Next Gen Advisory Council Slides
3. AOG Board Citation
4. USAFA Form 0-96

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY



AS OF: 21 April 2026

Atch 1: Members in Attendance:

59	93
60	94
61 Dean Jones	95
62	96
63	97
64 Doug Jenkins	98 (Felecia Recker – G)
65 Jim Vick	99
66 Larry Bagley	00
67 Pete Knepell	01 Jason Harris
68 Hartsel Beckett	02
69 Tom Fleming	03 Heidi Schlagheck
70 Gerry Shaw	04
70 (Roger Hill – B)	05 John Tamasitis
71 Tom Berry	06
72 Ski Wagasky	07
73	08 Ashley Fregly
74 Tom Hayden – Secretary	09
75 Bruce Mitchell	10
76	11
77	12
78 Wayne Hermandorfer	13
79 Randy Helms	14
80	15
81	16
82	17
83	18
84 DJ Johnson	19
85	20
86	21
87 Tim Matson	22
88	23
89	24
90	25
91 John Cinnamon – President	
92 Rick Bailey	

[Names in () are non-senators]
 [“B” = Backup]
 [“G” = Guest]



RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

Presented to the

CLASS ADVISORY SENATE

WHEREAS, the continued strength and success of the United States Air Force Academy Association of Graduates (AOG) depend upon the thoughtful engagement, informed counsel, and steadfast commitment of its volunteer leaders; and

WHEREAS, the Class Advisory Senate has consistently demonstrated sincere dedication to the mission and long-term vision of the AOG, offering candid insight, constructive guidance, and principled engagement on matters essential to the welfare of the graduate community; and

WHEREAS, the Senators, representing classes across generations, have served as a vital conduit between the AOG and the broader graduate body, ensuring that various perspectives are heard, respected, and integrated into strategic decision-making; and

WHEREAS, their professionalism, integrity, and collaborative spirit have strengthened the AOG's ability to serve graduates, cadets, and the Academy with excellence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Graduates formally commends the Class Advisory Senate for its sincere advice and enduring commitment to advancing the vision and values of the AOG; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this expression of appreciation be presented to the Class Advisory Senate and attached to the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting as a lasting acknowledgment of the Senate's meaningful contributions to the Association of Graduates and the United States Air Force Academy.

CADET FOOD ACCEPTABILITY REPORT				DATE	
MEAL ITEMS REFER TO <i>(Check one only)</i>		BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER	
SERVICE OF FOOD <i>(Check one)</i>		WAITER SERVICE <i>(Check one)</i>		PORTION SERVED <i>(Check one)</i>	
SLOW		SLOPPY		SMALL	
AVERAGE		AVERAGE		AVERAGE	
FAST		NEAT		OVERSIZE	
PERSONNEL ATTITUDE <i>(Check one)</i>		BEVERAGES <i>(Check one)</i>		MEAL CONSIDERED <i>(Check one)</i>	
SOUR <i>(Explain under Remarks)</i>		UNSATISFACTORY <i>(Explain Remarks)</i>		UNSATISFACTORY <i>(Explain Remarks)</i>	
AVERAGE		AVERAGE		SATISFACTORY	
FRIENDLY		GOOD		GOOD	
REMARKS <i>(Continue on reverse side)</i>					
SUGGESTIONS <i>(Continue on reverse side)</i>					
This checklist is for use by the Food Service Officer, and in no way will tend to reflect credit or injury to the Cadet completing the form.		SIGNATURE OF CADET		DUTY PHONE	ORGANIZATION