

Meeting Minutes – Class Advisory Senate, 15 July 2025 - FINAL

1. Call to Order: CAS President John Cinnamon, '91, called the meeting to order at 1700.

2. Members in Attendance: See Attachment 1

3. Others in Attendance:

Dr Brian Laslie, USAFA Historian

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

4. Previous Minutes:

CAS Website is unavailable at the moment as AOG revises their website.

WAY TO GET THERE: All minutes are temporarily posted on the Board of Directors website;

<https://www.usafa.org/content/congratulations-to-our-newly-elected-2025-class-advisory-senate-cas-officers> ; at the bottom of the page, click on the LINK “[here](#)” .

This brings up https://www.usafa.org/association_board_of_directors ; then click on menu item BOARD RESOURCES”; the Class Advisory Senate (CAS) link is below that;

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

John greeted all attendees and opened the meeting. He introduced Michael Cornelius, '00, USAFA AOG Executive Vice President, Alumni Relations for some brief comments:

6. Michael “Baja” Cornelius, '00, USAFA AOG Executive Vice President, Alumni Relations.

- Baja gave an update on Alumni Relations matters, including Chapters, Reunions, Membership and Merchandising issues.
 - He stated that his team is in transitioning mode right now. They are one-deep in several positions. In Reunions, he has one slot; as that person recently resigned, he is now recruiting a replacement. Michele Bergeman is acting as temporary head of reunions.
 - Membership has two positions and both are in place.
 - Merchandising has a vacancy right now. They have a \$1 million sales target this year.
 - He was asked the status of Hotel Polaris occupancy for this Fall’s reunions. He said there is nothing to compare it to yet, as the hotel opened after last season’s reunions.
 - For Reunion Week selection: he said that the 50th reunion class gets first priority overall. The top five classes get their choice. He has set priority for this Fall as 50th, 10th, 40th, 30th, 20th reunion classes.

- He stated that the new Visitor Center is now projected to open in April-May of 2026 due to interior design issues.
- He knows that the hotel price point is a big concern for classes.
- He stated the Chapel renovation MILCON has again been delayed and he believes the completion is set for 2029. He also mentioned that the Prep School now has a new MILCON Dormitory project.

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

John introduced our guest speaker, Dr Brian Laslie, USAFA Historian. Dr Laslie is a Citadel graduate and has written several books on Air and Space Power. He has been an Air Force Historian for 15 years, including tours at the 1ST Fighter Wing and NORAD.

8. Dr Brian Laslie, USAFA Historian.

- Dr Laslie stated that his main duty is to write the annual history of USAFA.
 - Dr Laslie said the Honor Code is the bedrock of the Cadet experience. The way it has been taught has changed over time; but the words have not changed.
 - He stated that Core Values were a 90's creation: Integrity First, Service Before Self, Excellence in all we do. "They can be applied to every class across time."
 - Cadets are trained to become warriors, leaders, thinkers. The warrior ethos spirit is in every Cadet when he/ she graduates.
 - He stated that at USAFA, character matters. All Cadets and alumni are expected to act with character. He stated that "Cadets have it in spades."
 - He sees the "weight of this place" every day.... the Reisner statue, the Memorial Wall, the Honor Court, and graduate displays in Fairchild Hall, are just a few things Cadets are exposed to every day.
 - In speaking to the Class Senators, he said that 'all of you (probably) wanted to come to the Academy for a *'different'* experience.' Cadets today choose the AFA for the same reason.' "The USAFA is a special place; people come here for special reasons."
 - A general discussion then began with all meeting attendees.
 - Dr Laslie said that fearing the Cadet Honor Code is not the right thing to do. But "one-and-done" is not necessarily the right thing either. [meaning one mistake and you are out.] Generationally, we are dealing with something else right now. The outside culture has changed. As we have watched over the years, we have seen a number of administrative changes to the Cadet Honor Code take place, with different leadership in place and for different reasons.
 - He stated that there is movement now toward a Four-class system versus a 4th Class system. The projection is that all Cadets will be involved to the

same degree with the Honor Code, with the same requirements. "The Honor Code is one of the enduring qualities of the Cadet System."

- Senate President John Cinnamon, '91 brought up an input from Mark Hille, '96 at the 15 April 2025 Class Advisory Senate meeting:
 - It is difficult to determine what is "AFA timeless" and what is important in our current time. The Senate should take on and determine the answer to this question: "What is it that is "timeless" about our Academy?" (...and should remain timeless?)
- John then asked if there were any volunteers to sit on a special Senate sub-committee to define and develop a list of the enduring qualities of the Cadet System that we should all embrace. Junk Wilson, '96, AJ Ranft, '73, and Dan Beatty, '76 all volunteered.
- Dr Laslie stated that Mike Feldman (AFA History Office) and Michele Bergeman (AOG) were points of contact that the sub-committee may want to involve.

9. Other Business / Round Table.

- John Cinnamon, '91, mentioned priorities: Alumni Support, Support to the Academy, Enduring Qualities, and Heritage.
- Several graduates affirmed that reunions are extremely important to most graduates and should have full support of the USAFA leadership.
- Baja Cornelius, '00 stated that his goal was to get 18 months ahead of reunions.
 - They now have off-cycle reunions (for example '72) to deal with, as well as Prep School reunions.
 - If more classes continue to schedule off-cycle reunions, there will be a limit established, a "break-even point", beyond which they will not be able to support without hiring additional AOG personnel.
 - The AOG has extended the contract for Armed Forces Reunions (AFR); they had held up on the contract renewal for 3-4 months pending input and decision. They have taken the suggestion of the Senate sub-committee on Reunions that they do a "hot wash" on AFR after each reunion season; they will begin this after the Fall reunions. While some classes have had issues with AFR, some have not. Class of '73 and Class of '74 50th reunions went well with respect to AFR's support.
 - A senator asked: Has the increase in Membership for All increased overall AOG/Foundation revenues as was previous forecasted? Baja answered that donations are up, and parents' memberships are up. He stated that "without getting into CFO specifics, we are getting into better financial position now."

10. John Cinnamon, '91, CAS President gave brief closing comments:

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

11. Next Meetings:

- AOG Board, 25 July 2025
- CAS Executive Committee, 9 September 2025
- CAS, 30 September 2025
- CAS Schedule: **CAS Website unavailable at the moment as AOG revises their website:**

TEMPORARY:

<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 1849.

Minutes submitted by: Tom Hayden '74, CAS Secretary

Minutes approved by: John Cinnamon '91, CAS President

Attachments:

1. Members in Attendance

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY



15 July 2025

Atch 1: Members in Attendance:

59
60 Dick Sexton
61
62 Dave Holt
63 John Borling
64
65 (Danny Murphy – G)
66 Larry Bagley
67 (Jeff Schofield – G)
68 Hartsel Beckett
69 Tom Fleming
70 Gerry Shaw
70 (Roger Hill – B)
71 Tom Berry
72 Ski Wagasky
72 (Andy Gessner – G)
73 A J Ranft –Vice President
74 Tom Hayden – Secretary
75 Bruce Mitchell
76 Dan Beatty
77 Joe Niemeyer
78 Wayne Hermendorfer
79 Randy Helms
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85 Scott Dumbald
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88 Keith McKeon
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91 John Cinnamon – President
91 (Rob Ramos – B)

92 Rick Bailey
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96 Junk Wilson
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99 Paul Ferguson
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03 Heidi Schlagheck
04 Shayla CantySmith
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16 Zach He
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20 Kristen McKenney
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22
23
24 Sara Scrapchansky

[Names in () are non-senators]

["B" = Backup]

["G" = Guest]