



MOVING FORWARD 2016

Recommendations to the Board of Directors from the Class Advisory Senate (CAS)

Reference: AOG USAFA Bylaws Article VII

The format of this *Moving Forward* document has changed; it is now less formal, shorter and more to the point. Timing is *as needed* as opposed to being in place for a newly appointed board. The current challenges of the AOG and more specifically, its Board, dictated the timing of this document.

Challenges

The CAS appreciates the superb work the AOG has done this past year and compliments the Board on its dedication and work. The Achievements of the AOG are well known and well documented in the CEO's updates to the Board and to the Class Advisory Senate. Therefore, we will move directly to the Challenges followed by Recommendations.

The AOG, and therefore the Board, are at one of the most crucial points in the recent history of the organization. The status and health of the USAFA Endowment (UE) directly affects the health of the AOG. The health of the AOG directly affects the health of the UE; this truly is a symbiotic relationship. The Board must find ways to ensure the success of the UE while continuing to take care of the membership, the Academy, the cadets and the AOG itself.

The CAS is confident the necessary and desired outcomes will occur and offers the following recommendations for the Board's consideration. The CAS continues to work issues within our control and charter and elevate those issues beyond our scope or capability.

Discussions and Recommendations

With reference to the vitality of the UE

- Continue the efforts underway to support the developing UE Comprehensive Campaign
- Follow a disciplined process to determine the best way to bring the AOG & UE closer together:
 - Educational material must be sent out to the membership in advance of the proposed bylaws. The process and procedure that led to the eventual [interim] solution must be a part of the story. The membership must see their participation or consideration of their position in the proposed solution. A strong and well documented story and clearly articulated requirements are essential.
 - The CAS realizes it will be in a position to assist and looks forward to serving as a two-way communications conduit and as an incubator of ideas.

With reference to the *quality* of email addresses/contact information in the database

- During the recent survey of the CAS Senators, we found the email address to contain an excessive number of errors. Note: Not all emails were from the AOG database.
- We understand the database is largely dependent upon self-reporting; it is not working.

- This not only impacts reunions and fundraising, but will also have a major impact on obtaining the necessary participation rate needed to change the bylaws.
- We must find a way to improve the “hit rate” with our contact information.

Discussions, Recommendations and Stretch!

With reference to “Fixing the Academy”

- Many graduates mistakenly look to the AOG and or the CAS as an ally to “fix” the Academy. Again, even if incorrect, some graduates look to the AOG as a means to inform the Academy leadership on trends and observations that raise concerns among graduates.
- The CAS works to keep senators informed through the guest presenter program so they can work with their classmates in an unofficial manner to address some of their concerns while reminding the classmates “fixing” these concerns is not within our charter or that of the AOG.
- We lose membership and contribution potential when the graduate community is dissatisfied with us whether it is in our charter or not!
- Can we find a way to help? Can we offer information on an alternative path instead of just saying it is not us?

With reference to “Make the Academy the *Air Force’s Academy* vice the cadets and graduates Academy.”

- The Academy is perceived as belonging to the Leadership and/or cadets and its graduates or – with some cynicism – the tax payers.
- We need the support of all Air Force personnel and retirees.
- How can we get the larger population to embrace the Academy as “their” Academy as well – even outside of football games!

Note: Remark from BG Williams while passing in the Falcon Club - - approximately

When having a discussion with the Superintendent at a staff meeting she asked why it’s so difficult to get the Academy message out. The Commandant responded, that is because everyone retires from the Academy leadership positions with the exception of the AOC’s. The point here is that the Academy belongs to the Academy and graduates only; difficult to get any of the message out but important.