

Class Advisory Senate Minutes
Monday, November 10, 2014
6:00 p.m.
Doolittle Hall

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Dick Sexton, President of the CAS.

Members in Attendance: See list at the end of this document.

Others in Attendance: Brig. Gen. Stephen Williams, Commandant of Cadets; "T" Thompson, President & CEO of the AOG; Gary Howe, Executive Vice President of the AOG; Jason Finkle, AOG IT Support & System Administrator; Greg Nedler, USAFA Endowment.

CEO Update: "T" Thompson showed the latest video with an update of the AOG. Link here <http://www.usafa.org/Videos/Movie/2112> . Please take the time to review this video. Share with your classmates and put a link on your class website if you have one. "T" made the point that the AOG has seen dramatic progress in the past six years and, in fact, had already exceeded it's 2015 goals. The staff is not developing the next 5 year plan. "T" also noted that we have pretty much picked the "low hanging fruit" and that future progress is more likely to be incremental rather than dramatic.

Brig. Gen. Stephen Williams:

Here is a link for his bio: <http://www.usafa.af.mil/information/biographies/bio.asp?id=17791>

Gen. Williams discussed three areas:

1. Pathways
2. Having a hierarchy of four distinct classes as opposed to fourth class versus upper classes
3. Open for questions

Gen. Williams opened his remarks reminding us that the cadets have more challenges than their peers at other universities. They are not the same as we may have experienced but they are indeed wide, varied and very demanding.

Pathways - how many different ways can we offer growth opportunities for our cadets? One new path for consideration is an exchange program with ROTC similar to that we have with the other service academies. Another area identified as needing improvement is the development of *life skills*. Life skills are those skills the cadets need to operate efficiently and effectively when they're on their own as second lieutenants. For example, some lieutenants have difficulty paying bills, renting apartments, and managing a household. Having increased responsibilities to manage their own time now exercises the required skills before they arrive at their first duty assignment. The privileges associated with second-class and first-class years are one way to approach these needs. There are is also a consideration of adding some night classes. The Commandant and his staff will continue to look for and evaluate

additional pathways to grow and develop cadets. The focus is on preparing graduates to take command upon graduation. He wants to instill in graduates that they are not leaving the Academy, they are entering the Air Force.

Four classes – the Commandant discussed in class system with four classes as opposed to the fourth class versus the upper three classes. Most of his conversation was centered on leadership levels as defined by Personal, Interpersonal, Team, and Organizational (PITO) model. For more information on the PITO model please see this link. <http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/xp/xpl/ODS.cfm> He also discussed that the *commitment* the second-class cadet signs at the beginning of their academic year is no longer a basic right but a privilege. Some cadets are notified that they are on probation and must meet certain standards and accomplish certain duties prior to being allowed to enter the cadet wing at the start of the academic year and assume a commitment. For example, this past year two cadets were denied the opportunity to come back.

There was a discussion based on a question asked about what is often referred to as the T-Gap or the Terrazzo Gap. This is often discussed in the context of an athlete who feels a greater commitment to his team than he does to his squadron or class. The Commandant mentioned several efforts underway to lower the T-Gap whether it is with athletics or a connection with academics. The primary effort is to take the cadet back to core values and remind the cadets that core values is the number one commitment.

He concluded that only 3.7% of the cadet wing is currently involved in disciplinary action.

USAFA Endowment Update: (Current status of fundraising is available on the USAFA Endowment website.)

Greg noted that there has been a lot of turnover in the Endowment staff with half of the staff being on board less than a year. Nevertheless, the Endowment has continued to grow the donor base and promote a culture of philanthropy for the Academy. The Endowment has raised over \$7 million so far in 2014. Over 53% of graduates have made some contribution to the Endowment. This includes over 9,000 Annual Donors, of which 1,500 are Saber Society members. The Endowment has also established a 1954 Society for members who have contributed three consecutive years or more.

There's an increased effort to raise money for academic areas to support academic competition and capstone challenges. There is also an effort underway to renovate the planetarium. Greg also noted that the Endowment is managing over 250 gift funds that can only be used to satisfy the donor's intent.

AOG By-Laws Review: Dick Sexton noted that the AOG Board will be reviewing the AOG By-Laws in 2015. He invited comments/input from the members that can be passed on to the Board.

Moving Forward, 2015-2017: Dick Sexton reminded members that the CAS has traditionally provided its "Moving Forward" recommendations to the Board at its May meeting but that this year it may be later or even deferred to 2016. This will be discussed at the January meeting.

Election of Officers: The current candidates for 2015 are:

President: Garry Dudley, '68

Vice President: Larry Bagely, '66

Secretary: Bob Muldrow, '67

Executive Committee: Curtis Cook, '59
George Larson, '62
Tom Fleming, '69
Jason Harris, '01

Dick Sexton will send out a ballot with a five working day suspense.

The new executive committee will meet December 8 to discuss the transition of the leadership team and the status of *Moving Forward* and the By-Laws review.

Members present in person or by phone/go-to-meeting:

59	Cook	Curtis
60	Sexton	Dick
61	Buckley	Pat
64	Jenkins	Douglas
65	Giffen	Bob
66	Bagley	Larry
68	Dudley	Garry
69	Fleming	Tom
70	Gaw	Dave
70	Dunbar	Chris
73	Birch	Dale
75	Mitchell	Bruce
77	Niemeyer	Joe
81	Land	Scott
84	Johnson	DJ
91	Tavener	Carson
93	Siegel	Jerry
01	Harris	Jason