



BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING

31 January 2021 Meeting Minutes

APPROVED

Board Members Present via Video Conference: Cathy McClain '82, Chair; Bob Lowe '71, Vice Chair; Ginny Caine Tonneson '80, Secretary; Glenn Strebe '87, Treasurer; Hans Mueh '66; Garry Dudley '68; Mark Volcheff '75; Frank Gorenc '79; Will Gunn '80; Diann Boyle '83; Dennis Dabney '89; John Vargas '96; Nancy Taylor '01; Andrew Hendel '09; Emma Przybyslawski '10; Randy Helms '79, President, Class Advisory Senate.

AOG Staff Present via Video Conference: Mike Gould '76, CEO; Marty Marcolongo '88, President/COO.

I. Call to Order/Chairman's Welcome

Chair McClain called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. MST on Sunday, 31 January 2021.

II. Agenda

The agenda focused on the graduate feedback resulting from CEO Gould's misinterpreted statement at the recent Doolittle Hall Update and how the Board should respond, as well as what should be done about the AOG membership of individuals involved in the unlawful events that took place at the U.S. Capitol on 6 January.

III. Executive Session

The Board went into executive session IAW Bylaws Article V Section 8 at 3:00 p.m. MST. At 3:42 p.m., Chair McClain dismissed CEO Gould and President/COO Marcolongo from the meeting.

MOTION: Director Dudley moved and Director Tonneson seconded to come out of executive session. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Open Session

The Board went into open session at 5:06 p.m. MST.

MOTION: Chair McClain moved and Director Lowe seconded that we concur with CEO Gould to release a video. The script will be approved by the Board. The discussion was held during executive session. The motion was unanimously approved.

MOTION: Chair McClain moved and Director Dudley seconded that the Board make a clarifying statement. The discussion was held during executive session. The motion was unanimously approved.

MOTION: Director Boyle moved and Director Dudley seconded that we retain Lt Gen (Ret) Gould as the CEO. The discussion was held during executive session. The motion was unanimously approved.

MOTION: Director Lowe moved and Director Volcheff seconded that the Board review the membership of Lt Col Larry Brock, USAFR (Ret) in accordance with the Bylaws. The discussion was held during executive session. The motion was unanimously approved.

A brief discussion ensued about responding to questions from members. Chair McClain emphasized our responsibility to respond as quickly as possible to members and that our answers should reflect Board decisions. She offered to respond on behalf of the Board to those members who are sending identical emails to all Directors. Chair McClain also encouraged the Directors to respond directly to those they know.

V. Break

At 5:22 p.m. MST, Chair McClain dismissed all but the Board members who had volunteered to review the draft video script for the CEO and the Board statement. Members of this group included Chair McClain and Directors Gunn, Taylor, and Przybyslawski. They forwarded the draft material to the rest of the Board members prior to the meeting reconvening at 8:00 p.m. MST. CEO Gould and President/COO Marcolongo rejoined the meeting following the break and Director Hendel was able to join as well.

VI. Executive Session

The Board went back into executive session IAW Bylaws Article V Section 8 at 8:00 p.m. MST.

MOTION: Director Tonneson moved and Director Dudley seconded to come out of executive session. The motion was unanimously approved.

VII. Open Session

The Board went into open session at 9:04 p.m. MST.

MOTION: Director Mueh moved and Director Lowe seconded that we approve the video script for CEO Gould. The discussion was held during executive session. The motion was unanimously approved.

MOTION: Director Dudley moved and Director Volcheff seconded that we approve the Board statement. The discussion was held during executive session. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chair McClain noted that the video and Board statement would be released nearly simultaneously on 1 February. CEO Gould asked the group to think about the issue being addressed and to evaluate the statements for consistency and desired effectiveness.

MOTION: Director Gorenc moved and Director Mueh seconded that we move back into executive session. The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. Executive Session

The Board went into executive session IAW Bylaws Article V Section 8 at 9:16 p.m. MST.

IX. Chair's Comments

Chair McClain thanked the group for the many hours we spent discussing these issues. CEO Gould will review the video script with a fresh set of eyes in the morning and will run any suggested changes by Chair McClain.

X. Adjournment

Chair McClain adjourned the meeting at 9:38 p.m. MST.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Caine Tonneson, Secretary

Atch:

1. CEO Script
2. Board Statement

Attachment 1:

CEO Video Script

In a recent Doolittle Hall virtual update, I was asked if the majority of the AOG Board of Directors thought the January 6 attack on our nation's Capitol was justified. The answer is no. In my response, I referred to a statement issued by the Board and referenced the Superintendent and DOD leaders' statements following the attack. I want to clearly and emphatically state that without question, neither I, nor any member of the AOG Board of Directors, believes the unlawful events of 6 January were acceptable in any way. All violent and illegal acts committed surrounding the attack on our Capitol were reprehensible.

My intent was, and is, to emphasize my hope that our Long Blue Line stays focused on living out our Air Force core values and remains unified--serving our graduates and members, enhancing the heritage of this premier institution and enriching the cadet experience. The Association of Graduates remains fully committed to assisting the Academy in accomplishing its mission of developing leaders of character for the Air and Space Forces.

Attachment 2:

Recently in a virtual meeting the AOG CEO was asked if the majority of the AOG Board of Directors thought the 6 January attack on our nation's Capitol was justified.

Without question, the Board unanimously condemned the actions of all who entered the Capitol, assaulted law enforcement personnel and desecrated the hallowed halls of Congress. We affirm one's constitutional right to assemble peacefully but would never support unlawful or illegal acts.

With respect to any AOG member involved in the illegal activities surrounding the 6 January event – the Board will review membership in accordance with our bylaws which require a 45-day notification to anyone who may have their membership revoked.

Your AOG is an important conduit for frank conversations about the challenges we face as a country. It is imperative to continue our diverse and engaged thought leadership as a graduate community.

Please feel free to contact any AOG Board Director - we are here to serve you.

Respectfully,

Your Board of Directors