

USRowing Athlete Council Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2026/Virtual Meeting/8:03 - 9:00 PM EST

Attendees

Athlete Council Representatives: Dariush Aghai, Grace Latz, Eli Margolin, Nick Mead, Meghan Musnicki, Robin Prendes, Pieter Quinton, Taylor Ritzel, Andy Wigren, Gemma Wollenschlaeger

Not Present: Molly Bruggeman, Kate Knifton

Meeting Summary

Grace Latz, AC Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:03pm. Led with opening statements and welcomed new council members! Outlined the meeting's agenda, starting with delaying the approval to minutes to the next meeting, since AC Secretary was currently underway in Selection Camp. Since there wasn't yet full attendance, they chose to delay the discussion and vote for AC leadership to the halfway point to engage all those who expressed interest.

Dariush Aghai joined the meeting at 8:07pm

1. AC appointments of athlete representatives on other committees and working groups.

Grace Latz presented a slate of 10 year athlete rep candidates to sit on the Currents Working Group, Facilities and Capital Working Group, and Grievance Panel. The slate included: Grace D'Souza, Robb Munn, and Emily Regan to fill the seats not already filled by qualified candidates between those three groups. The AC discussed and approved the slate unanimously.

2. HP and PHP updates

Nick Mead and Andy Wigren presented information about the current Selection Camp 1, of which they were both on the Selection Panel. They covered and the AC discussed, among other matters, athlete experience, logistics, initial impressions, etc. Nick Mead brought up the idea of coaching surveys for quicker athlete feedback, and will work with Musnicki and HPC to develop.

Robin Prendes joined the meeting at 8:17pm

3. Board/TeamUSA AC Updates

Athlete Board Members updated the AC on the Board's work on strategy planning and upcoming March meeting.

4. AC Leadership

With more in attendance, Grace presented the conversation around electing AC leadership for 2026. The AC discussed, among other matters, description of the roles and responsibilities, focus on mentoring and succession planning, etc. landing on maintaining the current AC leadership of Grace Latz as Chair, Dariush Aghai as Vice Chair, and Molly Bruggeman as AC Secretary. A motion was made by Meghan Musnicki, seconded by Taylor Ritzel, and AC approved the slate unanimously.

5. Open Forum/New Business

They AC covered and discussed, among other matters, discussing the impacts and influence of the annual athlete survey to athletes on monthly calls, updates around the coaching surveys with HPC and PHPC, updates around AC efforts to update the National Team Agreement and HIPAA release, and a strategy session to identify the focus of the AC to LA28.