

**GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS  
UNIVERSITY SENATE COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, September 27, 2012**

I. Call to Order

Kris Varjas called to order the meeting of the University Senate Committee on Athletics at 11:45 a.m. in Room 235, University Center. Ms. Varjas announced the newest members on the committee: MaryAnne Gaunt, Staff Representative and Gabrielle Brooks, Student Representative.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was presented to approve the minutes and was seconded. All were in favor and minutes were approved.

Attendees-

Perry Binder, Jamie Boggs, Gabrielle Brooks, Fred Brooks, Richard Fendler, Dena Freeman-Patton, MaryAnne Gaunt, James Greenwell, Kerry Heyward, Cheryl Levick, Marvin Lewis, Mike Metzler, Erik Paz, Chester Phillips, George Pierce, Andy Sumner, Kris Varjas

III. Review Role/Responsibility of Committee

An informative handout was given to each committee member outlining their roles and responsibilities. Ms. Varjas asked James Greenwell to provide a drug testing update at the next meeting since the committee worked on some of the policy wording last year.

IV. Standing Reports

A. Athletic Director's Report

- i. Department Update - Ms. Levick gave a department update. Joerg Barthel has been hired as the Men's Tennis Head Coach. He was formerly at the University of Nebraska. For this school year, we have 121 new student-athletes and 228 returning student-athletes. Our total number of sports is now 19. We recruit nationally and internationally. Sand Volleyball is our newest sport. The coaching staff consists of Tami Audia and Beth Van Fleet. Twelve players are on scholarship and competition begins spring of 2013. This new sports year begins our transition from the CAA to the Sun Belt Conference. Football is playing a CAA schedule and is in the first year of the FBS transition. Football

is not eligible for the CAA Championship. The following team sports are playing the regular CAA season schedule with no conference championship opportunity available: baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's soccer, softball and volleyball. Dr. Becker and Cheryl met with the Presidents of the other CAA Universities to ask for a rule waiver, but it was not granted. As a result, the following individual team sports were invited to compete in the Sun Belt Conference and can compete in the championships right away: men's and women's cross country, men's and women's golf, men's and women's tennis, and men's and women's indoor/outdoor track and field.

The University has a new institutional spot created by University Relations. Ms. Levick showed the 30 second version to the group. Homecoming for the University was then discussed and various attendees discussed ways to generate student interest to raise awareness and bring more students to the game.

- ii. Sports Update – A handout was available for all committee members detailing updates on Fall sports.

#### B. Academic Report

- i. GradesFirst Software – Dena Freeman-Patton explained the new software implemented in the athletics department that will benefit advisors and student-athletes. The software will track study hall usage and advisor meetings and will print tutoring reports and progress reports on all student-athletes. The University uses this software as well.
- ii. Graduation Success Rate – The GSR has increased steadily over the past 10 years. The University rate is 48%, but the student-athlete rate is at an all-time high of 70%.

#### C. Budget and Finance Report

- i. The Athletic Department has been approved for a \$25M budget for the 2012-13 fiscal year.

#### V. NCAA Rules Education

The SCA Committee was shown a Power Point and given five rules to remember about NCAA compliance.

1. Do not provide extra benefits to prospects or student-athletes
2. Do not recruit prospects
3. Do not evaluate prospects
4. Do not publicize recruiting activity
5. Do not use student-athletes for promotional purposes

VI. Old Business

A. Fall Competition Schedules – All committee members were given updated schedules for review.

B. Gender Equity Review

- i. Swimming & Diving Interest Survey – In Spring 2012, Swimming & Diving was recommended as a sport to add to our Athletics program. In October of this year, a student interest survey will go out to all undergraduate, full-time GSU students.
- ii. Laundry List Review Update – The head coaches completed their questionnaires and the data has been reviewed.

VII. New Business

A. 2012-13 Winter Sports Schedule Approval – All committee members were given schedules for review. Non-conference games were not available at the time and will be sent via email. All schedules were subsequently voted on and approved via email.

B. Student-Athlete Conduct

- i. Student-Athlete Creed – A creed is being created with input by student-athletes and the SAAC for all our student-athletes to sign and strive to abide by. It will be available at the next meeting for the SCA to review.

VIII. Future Meetings – November 29, 2012.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.