

**GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS**  
**UNIVERSITY SENATE COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, September 26, 2013**

I. Call to Order

Kristen Varjas called to order the meeting of the University Senate Committee on Athletics at 11:45 a.m. in Room 235, University Center.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was presented to approve the minutes from April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and was seconded. All were in favor and minutes were unanimously approved.

Attendees-

Jamie Boggs, Fred Brooks, Richard Fendler, Dena Freeman-Patton, Peggy Gallagher, MaryAnne Gaunt, Kerry Heyward, Cheryl Levick, Shelley Linens, Erik Paz, George Pierce, Chester Phillips, John Portland, Rebecca Stout, Kristen Varjas

III. Standing Reports

A. Athletic Director's Report

- i. Department Update – AD Cheryl Levick first thanked everyone on the committee for their support during the football game on September 21, 2013. Coach Trent Miles spoke after the game and had very encouraging words to share with the team despite the loss.

The athletic department was in the process of making internal promotions and other staffing changes. These changes are complete and Levick explained there is a strong senior staff in place.

George State Athletics now has a new radio agreement and contract in place with Dickey Broadcast 1340 "The Fan." They will broadcast football, basketball and other GSU athletic events.

Georgia State University is now completely in the Sun Belt conference. Georgia Southern and Appalachian State will join next year; Western Kentucky will leave.

Levick noted that we are completing the FBS transitional requirements and are in good shape with the report which will be submitted next June. We need to continue to average 15,000 people in paid or actual attendance at this season's football games in order to maintain our FBS membership. This year, we are slightly above that average thanks in

large part to our charitable ticket program. With this program, season ticket holders have the opportunity to purchase tickets which will in turn be donated to a charitable organization in Atlanta. Student attendance is almost at 3,000. Students are very supportive of GSU football but are unable to attend many games due to work schedules. Overall, we are in good shape with regards to reaching the 15,000 attendance requirement this season.

Levick stated that an Athletic Department goal this year is to win three Sun Belt Conference Championships. We are looking towards the Cross Country team to lead the way again this year.

Levick and senior staff will attend the Mandatory Student Fee meetings beginning Friday, September 27, 2013. We are recommending a \$14 increase. Twelve of those dollars would go to the Athletic Department to complete the original financial plan and to add another women's sport. Two of those dollars would go to the GSU Band.

Levick stated that the university is currently in the planning phase of the \$300 million capital campaign. Athletics is charged with raising \$20-\$25 million and the department will do so through fundraising efforts, the annual PAC, endowments, and planned giving. Once the funds are raised, the department will focus on cost-effective facilities upgrades such as a football weight room, an academic center, and a sports performance center.

- ii. FBS Transition Update – Jamie Boggs announced that the first year FBS reclassification process requirements were completed. The NCAA DI Administration Cabinet advanced Georgia State to Year Two on July 10, 2013. Georgia State now has to comply with all FBS legislation and membership requirements, and submit an Annual Report and an updated Strategic Plan by June 1, 2014. Additionally, we must report all violations and engage in a compliance review conducted by an authority outside of the athletics department.

## B. Academic Report

- i. APR –Dena Freeman-Patton announced that all teams received an APR score over 900 last year and are all eligible for post-season play. Men's Tennis received a 927 and is now on an academic improvement plan to help them reach the new 930 benchmark this year. Retaining international transfer students is the biggest issue with the Men's Tennis team. The improvement plan focuses on limiting the amount of transfers in the spring as well as engaging these students in more life skills and student affairs activities to help them become better- oriented at GSU.

- ii. Spring Grades – Student-Athletes earned a cumulative GPA of 3.01 and a semester GPA of 3.03. This marked the tenth consecutive semester with a cumulative 3.0 GPA. Women’s Cross Country led the way for the women’s teams with a 3.66 semester GPA while Men’s Soccer led the men’s teams with a 3.4 semester GPA. In the spring of 2013, 151 student-athletes made the AD’s Honor Roll (3.2 GPA or above), 65 student-athletes made the Dean’s List (3.5 GPA or above), and 20 student-athletes made the President’s List (4.0 GPA).

#### C. Facilities Report

- i. John Portland announced that Men’s and Women’s Basketball moved into their new locker rooms on Monday, September 23, 2013. The Sand Volleyball complex opened on August 29, 2012 and the inaugural match attracted 913 fans. The Baseball stadium underwent changes to make it more inviting to fans and the new Sun Belt Conference logos are now posted in every athletic facility.

#### D. Compliance Report

- i. Erik Paz discussed the upcoming changes with regards to the NCAA Certification Process. A new program called the Institutional Performance Program (IPP) is being introduced by the NCAA Division I Committee on Institutional Performance. Georgia State has been chosen as one of 25 institutions to provide feedback on the program. The IPP will be conducted every year and is designed to assist institutions in identifying records, to help in addressing issues more proactively, and to allow institutions to compare with other institutions within peer groups. We will be required to submit information that focuses on four data points: Academic, Fiscal Management, Inclusion, and Student-Athlete Experience.

### IV. New Business

- A. Drug Testing Policy Proposal – Jamie Boggs explained the current Drug Testing Policy and then presented the proposed revision to the policy. The revision proposed suspending the student-athlete for a future athletic contest rather than the next immediate contest to accommodate varying circumstances. The proposal will allow for flexibility and will focus on punishing the individual rather than the team. Chester Phillips suggested that the suspension be within the next three athletic contests and Peggy Gallagher suggested that the SCA should receive a report of when a suspension does not occur for the next athletic contest, to which AD Cheryl Levick agreed. A motion was made to approve and it was seconded. Rebecca Stout abstained from voting and all others were in favor. The Drug Testing Policy Proposal with amendments was approved.

- B. Sporting Conduct Policy – Jamie Boggs and John Portland explained the current Code of Conduct policy which applies to all fans in attendance at all GSU athletic events. Peggy Gallagher raised concerns that the parents of some football student-athletes did not demonstrate appropriate sporting conduct during the away game against West Virginia. Boggs noted that she would look into this and provide additional education if necessary. The committee reviewed the code and decided to remove the statement on inappropriate clothing and to include a statement on drug impairment. A motion was made to approve with the changes and it was seconded. All in attendance were in favor and the Code of Conduct was approved.
- C. Winter and Spring Competition Schedules – A motion was made to review competition schedules earlier in the academic year and to vote via email in the future; the motion was seconded. All in attendance approved. All SCA members were given sports schedules for the Winter and Spring sports to review including: Baseball, Men’s and Women’s Basketball, Men’s and Women’s Golf, Women’s Indoor Track & Field, Women’s Outdoor Track & Field, Sand Volleyball, Softball, and Men’s and Women’s Tennis. A motion was made to approve and it was seconded. George Pierce abstained from voting and all others in attendance were in favor; the schedules were approved.

V. Future Meetings

- A. November 21<sup>st</sup> or December 5<sup>th</sup> – Committee members were in agreement on a November 21, 2013 meeting date.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.