

**GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS**  
**UNIVERSITY SENATE COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, October 9, 2014**

I. Call to Order

Kristen Varjas called to order the meeting of the University Senate Committee on Athletics at 11:40 a.m. in the University Center VIP Room 235.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was presented to approve the minutes from April 24, 2014. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Attendees-

Jamie Boggs, Fred Brooks, Charlie Cobb, Beau Evans, Richard Fendler, Kerry Heyward, Darryl Holloman, Brad Horton, Doug Justice, Shelley Linens, Bob Murphy, Erik Paz, Joesph Peragine, George Pierce, Chester Phillips, Corneill Stephens, Shawn Swenson, and Kristen Varjas.

III. Review Role/Responsibility of Committee

Kris Varjas discussed the recently revised bylaws and that there will potentially be more changes. The last major change was when former Athletic Director Cheryl Levick created the Georgia State University Athletic Association (GSUAA). Varjas and George Pierce sit on the GSUAA Board which is responsible for overseeing the budget and other department responsibilities. The Senate Committee on Athletics meets two to three times a year, attends athletic events together, and recently addressed the athletic department drug policy. The committee made a change to vote on schedules via email if there is a quorum. Erik Paz stated that he will bring the fall competition schedules to the first spring meeting and will bring the spring schedules to the first fall meeting.

IV. Standing Reports

A. Athletic Director's Report

Athletic Director Charlie Cobb reported on the discussions from the Sun Belt Conference Fall Meetings. He mentioned that conversations are starting around the cost-of-attendance and stipends for student-athletes. There will be meetings in January of 2015 for the top five conferences to discuss and vote on the cost-of-attendance subject. Jamie Boggs mentioned that the Sun Belt Conference is discussing policy on the cost-of-attendance and the Commissioner does not see it is likely that the conference will require a policy on the subject.

Cobb discussed his philosophy as an athletic director and how athletics is a part of the university with huge potential for growth. His four core values are: relationships matter, achieve success, reward innovation, and create traditions. Athletics needs to want and be a part of campus and focus on social responsibility, academic and athletic success. Athletics needs to identify its marks and logos and reach out to former athletes. Corneill

Stephens asked if there was a plan in place for increasing resources for salaries and enhancing facilities. Cobb answered that he is here with a background to create revenue. He is still developing relationships and learning the dynamics and history of the department and the university.

- i. FBS Transition Update – Boggs announced that the department’s strategic plan and compliance review was submitted in May of 2014 and was approved in August of 2014. As of September 1, 2014, Georgia State is officially an FBS school. The compliance review recommendations that the department is implementing are mostly completed or currently in progress. The chart tracking these changes will be sent to this committee for review in a future meeting. Boggs noted that the football attendance requirement needs to be met every other year.

#### B. FAR Report

- i. Compliance Advisory Group – George Pierce discussed the formation of the group and the role is to better communication and allow for smoother transitions with policy. The group is chaired by the Provost and representatives from departments that relate to athletics. Meetings are quarterly and sub-committees meet every other week.
- ii. FAR Role-New Governance Structure – The FARs are crafting a vision statement committing to student-athletes and all that entails. Concussion studies were discussed at the Sun Belt Conference Fall Meetings. Pierce mentioned that the DIA FAR Association and FARA organizations state that there is not enough faculty involvement and they are underrepresented in the NCAA.

#### C. Academic Report

- i. Spring 2014 Grades – Brad Horton announced that the student-athletes earned a 3.0 GPA for the twelfth consecutive semester. The academics staff has been revamped and they are now providing study hall on the road and life skills programs to help develop student-athletes.
- ii. Practice Schedules – Horton mentioned that the practice schedules for spring 2015 are in the meeting folders. Academics identified practice times with the coaches prior to registration. Academics will alert coaches to practice time changes due to class availabilities.
- iii. New Initiatives – The tutoring program was reviewed for efficiency. Academics met with Carol Cohen and will utilize campus tutoring and work to have campus tutors become athletics tutors. The main focus is to educate student-athletes and have them prepared to sessions. Allowing students to use athletics tutoring is also among current discussions. Horton announced that academics wants to get student-athletes involved in the Honors College. The goal is to get 21 student-athletes to join across all sports and to have football represented. Academics staff is going to join training sessions for the University Advising Center to gain more familiarity with their systems. Athletics has used GradesFirst for six years and is getting increased feedback from campus. The response rate from professors on student-athlete conduct and classroom performance is at 51 percent and the system seems to be working well. Discussions with the Counselling and Testing Center on the costs of tests and other services are in progress.

#### D. Compliance Report

- i. Review of 2013-14 Violations – Paz announced that the violations are listed in a chart in the meeting folders. The key points are also noted in the chart. Compliance checks the enrollment report from the Office of the Registrar daily to secure eligibility with classes.
- ii. Certification Procedures – Paz discussed the changes for the FBS transition. The compliance department policies are exact and elaborate already. It was a recommendation by the Compliance Group to include what the Registrar does for certification on a daily basis and to make one policy with athletics. Another recommendation was to expand specifics in areas of the compliance manual and note individual's responsibilities.

Paz said that the university certifies student-athlete eligibility through the Registrar, Financial Aid and Compliance. The squad list is then sent to the Sun Belt Conference for approval and then the student-athletes may fully participate. Compliance expanded the certification calendar to include more specific dates. Compliance is adding a foreign tour certification policy and recently introduced Jump Forwards recruiting software. Boggs announced that talks are in place to educate campus faculty and staff.

#### V. New Business

- i. Varjas announced the Board of Regents has an existing Title IX committee separate from the athletic committee. There is a rising concern of oversight from the Board of Regents level. Cobb said that the Board of Regents is doing a financial audit and he is on the committee. Consolidating sports across the state and academic issues in applying for new degrees are among the topics of discussion.
- ii. Concussion Procedures – Bob Murphy discussed the athletics department concussion procedures. He mentioned that the sports medicine department educates the student-athletes at the beginning of each year. Education includes a video and presentation from the NCAA and signs and symptoms to look for. The department utilizes the neuropsychological testing system and a sideline tool called SCAT to test for concussion immediately. If a concussion is determined, symptoms are monitored daily and the student-athlete will see a physician for clearance. The department utilizes an organization in Atlanta that specializes in concussions. The student-athlete will gradually be reintroduces to full activity once cleared. Academics is contacted to update professors. Concussion education is given to academics and professors.

Guardian Caps are used in football to reduce force contact to the head. The caps provide more day-to-day general contact protection. There are about 12-15 concussions yearly, similar to other sports. Student-athletes are more aware because of increased education.

- iii. Addressing Sexual Violence – Boggs discussed case studies regarding sexual violence and how the department is going to implement sexual conduct training this academic year. Student-athletes, coaches and administrative staff will go through the training through the Office of the Dean of Students. Boggs mentioned the possibility

of creating an ad hoc committee for Title IX with reporting requirements. Varjas wanted the creation of a sub-committee to review Title IX sexual assault. Chester Phillips, Darryl Holloman, Kerry Heyward, and Georgie Pierce were placed on the sub-committee.

VI. Future Meetings

- i. November 20, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. Boggs will send an email regarding scheduling for the spring meetings.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.