

**GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS**  
**UNIVERSITY SENATE COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, November 20, 2014**

I. Call to Order

Kristen Varjas called to order the meeting of the University Senate Committee on Athletics at 11:56 a.m. in the University Center VIP Room 235.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was presented to approve the minutes from October 9, 2014. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Attendees-

Fred Brooks, Charlie Cobb, Beau Evans, Peggy Gallagher, Colleen Geary, Brad Horton, Kerry Heyward, Doug Justice, Shelley Linens, Erik Paz, Joseph Peragine, Chester Phillips, Shawn Swenson, Kristen Varjas

III. New Business

Beau Evans reported the Student Government Association's (SGA) new athletic initiatives. SGA approved an athletic partnership act in order to help increase student attendance at basketball games. SGA has discussed initiatives and organizations being recognized during breaks at games. The initiatives are being spearheaded by Sebastian Parr.

The SGA is looking to increase school spirit at games and has been working with Parker Hendricks in Athletics. Chartered student organizations can apply to speak at games, have video presentations at halftime, reserve a section in the stands, and volunteer at games to welcome fans. These initiatives include women's basketball, possibly sand and court volleyball, and hopefully football. Athletic Director Charlie Cobb said that he will invite the SGA to the next meeting regarding football game day activities.

Chester Phillips, Band Director, invited the group to attend the Holiday Gala for the School of Music on December 6 and December 7, 2014. Tickets can be requested through Chester Phillips.

IV. Standing Reports

A. Chair Report

B. Athletic Director's Report

Athletic Director Charlie Cobb introduced the new Athletic staff and announced that Jamie Boggs was leaving Georgia State for a position at Grand Canyon University. Cobb mentioned that he will announce the new athletics organizational chart at the next meeting.

Volleyball will be participating in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament next week. Cross Country finished fifth overall in the Sun Belt Conference Championships and boasts the individual winner. Men's and Women's Soccer both lost in the first round of the tournament. Men's and Women's Basketball have been doing well and the student-athletes will be finishing up classes in the next two weeks.

C. FAR Report

D. Academic Report

Associate Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Development Brad Horton discussed the Academic Progress Rate (APR) and how APR justifies eligibility and retention. Our APR score shows that we are keeping students at Georgia State and graduating them. In order to compete in post-season competition, you have to receive an APR score of 930. At Georgia State, Baseball, Men's Basketball, and Men's Tennis reported the lowest APR scores. Football's single year APR score is among the top 15% in the country. The goal is to be in the top 10% at around a 960 score.

Horton discussed the Graduation Success Rate (GSR) which is critical to student-athlete success and development. The GSR only includes student-athletes unlike the Federal Graduation Rate which includes the entire student body. Georgia State currently has an 86% graduation rate over a 6 year projection. Georgia State and Appalachian State are currently have the top two GSR's in the Sun Belt Conference.

The Academics Staff is evaluating these scores with coaches and continuing to educate them on this subject and to encourage student-athletes to graduated and get careers. Horton will go over APR in the next meeting in order to give the group a better understanding.

Horton announced that he is in the process of working with Dr. Temple at the Testing and Counseling Center to get accommodations and develop academic plans for student-athletes with disabilities. Currently there are 10 to 15 student-athletes that are diagnosed. Most of the student-athletes come in already with their disabilities diagnosed. Horton is looking into testing Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, and Football incoming students this coming spring but that testing is expensive. Brittany Price, Jessica Summey, and Horton are all qualified as learning specialists and primarily work with at-risk student athletes. Horton is currently negotiating for a Learning Specialist budget.

E. Compliance Report

i. Compliance Group Recommendations

Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance Erik Paz announced that the RACI Chart which lists the recommendations from the Compliance Group is up to date. Some projects are on-going and will be evaluated in the spring. Some of the main recommendations that GSU accommodated was more involvement between the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) and the student-athletes, modification of Compliance forms to target specific areas for better monitoring, and having the Compliance Department meet with the Athletic Compliance Advisory Policy Committee which is led by Shari Schwartz, Registrar.

Paz mentioned that there was a change for incoming Football student-athletes where they now have to pass nine hours in the Fall and earn one APR point.

V. Future Meetings

- i. April 2, 2015 meeting may be rescheduled for voting.
- ii. The Title IX Sexual Violence Sub-Committee will meet soon and update the group.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.