

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS
UNIVERSITY SENATE COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 12, 2015

I. Call to Order

Kristen Varjas called to order the meeting of the University Senate Committee on Athletics at 11:57 a.m. in the Student Center Golden Key Boardroom.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was presented to approve the minutes from November 20, 2014. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Attendees-

Dan Benardot, Fred Brooks, Charlie Cobb, Peggy Gallagher, Kerry Heyward, Darryl Holloman, Brad Horton, Shelly Linens, Erik Paz, George Pierce, Kelcey Roegiers-Jensen, and Kristen Varjas.

III. Standing Reports

A. Chair Report

Kristen Varjas announced that the University is participating in President Obama's Sexual Harassment Campaign by videotaping students and others on campus. Varjas also announced that the Senate Committee on Athletics Title IX Sub-Committee will meet again. The sub-committee previously met to begin the planning process.

Kelcey Roegiers-Jensen stated that all of the student-athletes participated in Sexual Misconduct Training as well as the majority of athletics staff and coaches. There is a make-up training for the coaches and staff members who were unable to attend the first session. Peggy Gallagher mentioned that she is interested in seeing the presentation that was given to the student-athletes, staff, and coaches. Roegiers-Jensen announced that Athletics will have a presence in the Library Plaza on February 19th as a part of the "It's on Us" Campaign. Students will take the pledge and wear t-shirts at the upcoming Men's and Women's Basketball game. Gallagher mentioned reaching out to the College of Education as many faculty members were interested in this cause.

Varjas invited the Senate Committee on Athletics to attend the Men's Basketball game on March 7th against Georgia Southern. There will be a Panther Athletic Club pre-game event at Six Feet Under at 11:00 a.m. Varjas encouraged the Committee to have contact with the student-athletes outside of the Sports Arena by participating in events such as the upcoming Family Fun Run at the Capitol Building. Varjas announced that the Senate Committee will attend the Sand Volleyball match on April 3rd and get a short tour of the facility prior to the match. More information will be announced at the April 2nd meeting.

B. Athletic Director's Report

Athletic Director Charlie Cobb announced academic highlights for the fall semester. Overall, the student-athletes averaged a 3.14 GPA and the credit goes to the student-

athletes, coaches, Brad Horton, and the academics staff. The women's teams averaged a 3.33 GPA with Sand Volleyball at the top with a 3.67 GPA. The men's teams averaged a 2.98 GPA with Men's Tennis at the top with a 3.62 GPA. Football finished the semester with a 2.83 GPA, the highest semester average since the program's inception. Men's Basketball struggled with a 2.3 semester average for the semester, but the academics staff has address any issues and the team is ready for the spring semester. Many student-athletes were represented on the President's List, Dean's List, and Academic Honor Roll.

Cobb announced that both basketball teams were having a decent winter, the men's team currently holding third place. Baseball and Softball start later in the week and Women's Track & Field were having a solid season and will be participating in the indoor championships in the coming weeks.

Cobb addressed the budget challenges and announced that the department hired Stephen Rosner as the new Director of Finance for the Athletics Business Office. There will be a focus on creating continuity, processes, cutting costs and other unnecessary spending.

Dan Bernadot mentioned that a former Sand Volleyball student-athlete was accepted to a doctorate program at Emory University and encourage Athletics to publicize more success stories like this one. Cobb mentioned that Athletics is addressing previous marketing challenges and will utilize social media to tell "our story" and provide a call to action. The website is consistently updated with a "Student-Athlete of the Day" and will share that information with the families of student-athletes.

Gallagher asked about the status of adding another women's sport. Roegiers-Jensen stated that Athletics is revisiting the search and looking to conduct a survey targeting female undergraduate students and get a higher response rate. All NCAA sponsored sports are being considered and she will meet with Kerry Heyward and Cobb in the near future to discuss further.

Cobb updated the group on the Georgia Perimeter College (GPC) consolidation. GPC sponsored eight athletic programs which will cease operation on June 13, 2015. There are currently 15 athletic employees, two of which are full-time. Their contracts will end on June 3, 2015. GPC Athletics had roughly 80 freshman who will most likely transfer. Financial commitments will be honored through graduation for those who stay enrolled at GPC. Georgia State Athletics will be able to utilize equipment and facilities on the GPC campuses. Darryl Holloman mentioned that the Sub-Committee is looking into Title IX implications associated with the GPC consolidation.

C. Compliance Report

Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance Erik Paz educated the group on NCAA Compliance policies such as academic and amateurism certification. The main points included that the student-athletes are certified twice a year, once prior to the fall semester and then again prior to the spring semester. GPA and the amount of credits student-athletes take are checked every semester. Athletics and campus work together on all certification processes. More detailed information was provided in the power point presentation available to all committee members.

D. FAR Report

E. Academic Report

Associate Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Development Brad Horton educated the group on Academic Progress Report (APR). The main points Horton touched on was that APR is a team-based measurement of students receiving financial aid with regards to academic eligibility and retention. The NCAA requires a minimum of a 930 APR score. Above a 960 APR score is recommended and is a goal for Horton and his staff. If a team does not hit the minimum score, penalties are assessed by the NCAA such as being restricted from post-season competition. Horton and Paz mentioned the APR issues are mostly with retaining international student-athletes. Steps have been taken to address the issue which include the Summer Bridge program and a focus on building a family atmosphere. Horton is placing more of a focus on identifying student-athletes on financial aid to monitor them and show the coaches projections and the status of their student-athletes.

IV. Future Meetings

- i. April 2, 2015 – University Center VIP Room 235.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.