

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS
UNIVERSITY SENATE COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 24, 2014

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was presented to approve the minutes from November 21, 2013. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Attendees-

Jamie Boggs, Allison Boyd, Fred Brooks, Peggy Gallagher, MaryAnne Gaunt, Kerry Heyward, Brad Horton, Cheryl Levick, Shelly Linens, Erik Paz, Joseph Peragine, George Pierce, Chester Phillips, and Kristen Varjas.

III. Standing Reports

A. Athletic Director's Report

- i. Department Update – AD Cheryl Levick announced that Coach Ron Hunter received a contract extension through 2020 and that he is committed to Georgia State University and the men's basketball program.

Levick announced that women's tennis and men's golf were both Sun Belt Conference Tournament Champions and men's basketball won the Sun Belt Conference regular season title.

Georgia State Athletics has a new association with the Zoo. There will be a new deal where season tickets and "Family Zone" area access can be purchased for \$232.00.

Men's Basketball signed two hot transfers, Kevin Ware from Louisville and Jeremy Hollowell from Indiana.

Levick discussed the status report and announced that each program set team goals at the beginning of the year. Eight teams improved their win-loss record. Three teams won conference championships. Georgia State is currently sixth in the Bubas Cup standings and our goal is to finish in the top four. As a reminder, the Sun Belt Conference is adding men's soccer next year.

The Academic Championship is still in progress. Women's cross country and football won the Academic Championship and two more sports need to win to reach our goal of four. As a department, we have reached our goal of a 3.0 GPA for 11 consecutive semesters. We have exceeded our goal of 5,000 community service hours and are currently at 5,136 total hours.

Levick stated that Athletics will formally announce the addition of women's swimming and diving as part of our gender equity plan. We took a survey of females and Georgia State students and the most interest was shown in swimming and diving and women's lacrosse. The addition will be a two-year process. A coach will be hired in 2014-2015 and competition will begin in 2015-2016. We are working with Georgia Tech to find diving and community pools to lease.

Levick announced the FBS Transition is almost complete. The compliance audit was conducted on April 10th and 11th and we have reached the required football game attendance average of 15,000. The final FBS Transition Report is due on June 1st.

Levick provided an update on the men's tennis violations that were in the GSU Signal and the AJC. The incidents were self-reported by Assistant Coach Cesar Vargas and Athletics quickly conducted an investigation of the program. Jamie Boggs met with Head Coach Joerg Barthel and John Portland was a witness. Barthel was sent an allegation letter and was automatically suspended with pay. Athletics immediately contacted Kerry Heyward and President Becker. Athletics followed the proper reporting lines. Vargas was not protected as a self-report because violations were found during the investigation and he went through the same process as Barthel. Both coaches were terminated for NCAA violations. The women's tennis head coach is now being investigated for possible NCAA and University violations. Levick mentioned that she is not happy, but the proper processes are in place and the department has done its due diligence. Levick stated that Barthel was a talented coach that just let personal issues bleed into his work. In the future, Levick will get more detailed with interview questions. She congratulated the staff for handling the situation in a quick, professional and appropriate manner. Levick said no student athletes were involved in intentional violations and the women's tennis assistant coach, Kurt Clemmons, was hired to run the men's tennis team. Athletics self-imposed penalties on men's tennis student-athletes which included compliance education, sitting out of competitions and paying back the extra benefits they received, some of which were under \$100 and were not reported. Varjas mentioned that the best way to respond to questions about the incident is to say that this is an isolated issue which was handled swiftly and well and is not systemic within the athletic department. Boggs added that Barthel now has a show

cause order. The penalties are now attached to him and other universities have to present a plan and why they want to hire him to the NCAA Committee on Infractions. Further questions regarding the men's and women's tennis programs can be directed to Levick.

- ii. Sports Update – Levick announced that the Sports Update is located in everyone's folder for their review.

B. Internal Operations Report

- i. Academics-Organizational Update – Jamie Boggs introduced Brad Horton as the new Associate Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Development and Britta DeLay as the new Academic Coordinator. DeLay's focus will be on student-athlete life after sports.

C. FAR Report

- i. Class Scheduling – Pierce announced that there are class conflicts regarding football student-athletes in Sociology classes. The Registrar uses the Board of Regents system to maximize the utility of groups and are not permitted to change the schedule. The Registrar already made up the fall schedule which takes almost a full year to create. Football changed its practice time to the morning. Horton and Pierce met with the departments popular with football student-athletes to make them aware of the time change. Shelley Linens mentioned that there are some conflicts with Kinesiology and Health classes and medical coverage is going to be difficult with Sports Medicine Graduate Students. Levick will check with Bob Murphy in Athletics and coordinate. Horton is looking into implementing rotating schedules for Graduate Assistants.

IV. Old Business

A. NCAA Academic Cabinet

Boggs announced that clarification on academic misconduct was sent out and it is now only required to report misconduct under the first three cases listed on the PowerPoint handout. This information was sent to Dr. Stoud and Annette Brown to make sure everyone is on the same page.

B. Online Courses

Boggs said that research was conducted and it was found that universities with fraud issues were mostly with online classes. Georgia State online classes strictly follow the guidelines. Georgia State will file a formal charges for academic dishonesty. Athletics looked at our policy and made it uniformed with the NCAA

regulations. Compliance created a form that student-athletes fill out to state why they enroll in online classes.

- i. Guidelines and Monitoring Process – Student-athletes present a syllabus to their academic advisors. Student-athletes must get approval from Horton to take exams and complete group assignments in the athletic academic department. Student-athletes are also provided with support resources including tutors for up to 10 hours a week per student-athlete and up-to-date computers and software. Peggy Gallagher added that the University will be adding more hybrid and online courses. Boggs mentioned that we are not discouraging student-athletes from taking online class, but that we are ensuring that the proper documentation is completed and there is no fraud. Horton mentioned that plagiarism and proper citation will be addressed in the Summer Bridge program.

V. New Business

A. Compliance Review

Boggs announced that the Compliance Group conducted the report on April 10th and 11th on campus. A draft of the report was sent on April 22nd and Athletics can send a response. Boggs was hired in 2009 to oversee compliance. Since then, Boggs has allocated the proper resources (staffing), added documentation procedures and established relationships with University departments with compliance responsibilities. Over 100 written procedures have been revised and added. The department has adapted and expanded well with the addition of football.

Gallagher requested an explanation on how camps and clinics work. Boggs explained that camps and clinics are the responsibility of the coaches and is a source of additional income. Kerry Heyward mentioned that for liability reasons, camps and clinics are separate from the University, but the legal department is willing to revisit this topic. Levick said that she liked this format because it requires the coaches to get their own insurance and they can make additional money. Coaches can use Athletics logos, but they cannot conduct work on camps during regular office hours.

Erik Paz discussed some of the recommendations from the Compliance Group report. One recommendation was to conduct meetings between the Athletic Director and Sports Supervisors to discuss head coach responsibility. Boggs stated that we already have these meetings regularly. Athletics will schedule a meeting with the President and Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) once a month. There will be an increased interaction between the FAR and student-athletes. The role of the Director of Compliance should be re-evaluated to include reporting lines outside of athletics. Athletics already conducts an annual analysis of violations. Minor revisions to compliance forms were suggested. The role of

the Compliance Committee needs to be reviewed and the chair should be from outside of Athletics. The recruiting audit plan should be revised. Rules Education sessions will be provided on an as-needed basis and there needs to be increased compliance rules education for new employees. Camp reconciliation forms need to include the proper distribution of funds. It was also suggested that the Senate Committee on Athletics review the Special Talents Admissions Process. Paz stated that Admissions already imposed the revised process. Levick suggested that a Senate Committee on Athletics representative should be added to the Special Talents Admissions Committee. Varjas stated that she would look into this addition.

Paz discussed student-athlete employment and said that the form will have an additional line to state if employment was arranged by the coach. The student-athlete will have to authenticate practice hours submitted by their coaches. Paz will meet individually with student-athletes and have them sign off on the form. Compliance already has 20 percent of the student-athletes on each team sign the form. Paz said that he is working on amending the Compliance Manual language to indicate that a committee versus an individual makes the determination on violation occurrence. This is recommended to avoid adverse relationships between compliance and coaches. Boggs added that compliance already has a great relationship with the coaches. Paz added that extra benefits education will be conducted with corporate sponsors. Paz mentioned that areas without recommendations included Financial Aid and Academic Support.

B. APR Monitoring Plan

Boggs announced that the APR Monitoring Plan will be skipped due to time restraints, but the binder that includes the plan has been passed around the room.

- i. Men's Tennis APR Update – Boggs stated the men's tennis has retention issues, not academic issues. Retention will be address through Life Skills programming. Men's tennis will not participate in NCAA post-season play next season. More detail will be provided at the next meeting.

IV. Future Meetings

- i. Meetings will continue to be on Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. and begin in late August or early September.
- ii. Voting members appointed a chair. Kerry Heyward recommended Kristen Varjas as chair. Varjas was unanimously appointed.
- iii. Maryanne Gaunt will be retiring on June 1, 2014 and will be replaced as a member of the committee.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.