

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS
UNIVERSITY SENATE COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 18, 2016

I. Call to Order

Kristen Varjas called to order the meeting of the University Senate Committee on Athletics at 11:42 a.m. in the Sports Arena Room 274.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was presented to approve the minutes from November 18, 2015. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Attendees-

Tamika Barnes, Terry Bozeman, Charlie Cobb, Jacob English, Richard Fendler, Justin Jones, Robert Moore, Joseph Peragine, Chester Phillips, Sebastian Rand, Deborah Shapiro, Kris Varjas, and Kevin Yeomans. Brad Horton, Erik Paz, and Kelcey Roegiers from the Athletics Department were also in attendance.

III. Standing Reports

A. Chair Report

Senate Committee on Athletics Chair Kris Varjas introduced the new committee members.

B. Athletic Director's Report

Director of Athletics Charlie Cobb announced that Athletics is a 501c3 organization that is part of the university and overseen by the Georgia State University Athletic Association Board, chaired by the University President. Moving forward, Cobb will restructure the agenda for the Senate Committee on Athletics meetings in order to better organize meetings and allow for the Committee to better assist with Athletic Department planning.

Cobb shared the Strategic Plan with the Committee (attached hereto) which close to 75 Athletics Department staff and Committee members participated in developing. Cobb stated that the focus is on student-athlete development in academics and social development. Resource allocation is also a focus in the strategic plan.

Cobb discussed updates on cost of attendance and how scholarships do not cover the total cost of attendance currently. The Athletic Department is looking into providing student-athletes on full scholarship an additional stipend if they live on campus by reducing operating budgets and fundraising. From a competitive standpoint, all of the other Sun Belt Conference schools are covering cost of attendance. The Committee asked questions and there was more discussion on cost of attendance.

Lastly, Cobb discussed conference realignment and provided the group with a handout (attached hereto) detailing the current conference rankings. The Sun Belt Conference is approved Coastal Carolina as a full member beginning this July and is in discussions regarding the status of New Mexico and Idaho as football-only members. Cobb also announced that the Sun Belt Conference is expected to have a championship football game in the next two years.

C. Title IX/Gender Issues & Diversity Committees

Senior Woman Administrator Kelcey Roegiers announced the development of ad hoc committees on Title IX and Gender Equality and Diversity within the Senate Committee on Athletics. All interested parties are to email Roegiers. Roegiers announced that the Department reviewed the results of the survey that was sent to the undergraduate underrepresented population at Georgia State which closed in October 2015 with an 11% response rate. The results showed there was no real evidence of the undergraduate underrepresented population having unmet needs in regards to women's sports. Roegiers discussed the handouts (attached hereto) which breakdown the operation costs of the eight sports that were included in the survey. The committee asked questions regarding the handouts and Roegiers announced that she will continue to keep the Committee informed on this topic.

D. Student-Athlete Development Report

Associate Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Development Brad Horton announced the hiring of Michael Stovall who will serve as the Director of Life Skills and assist student-athletes with career development.

Horton also announced that the Department earned a 3.16 overall GPA for the Fall 2015. Notable improvements in academic performance include Men's Basketball and Women's Track & Field. Horton stated that his staff is focusing on graduation plans that are based in what major's the student-athletes are most interested in and can graduate from in four years. This plan leaves the option open to explore other majors while remaining on track to graduate in time. Horton invited the Committee to attend the upcoming Women's Basketball game to see the student-athletes with a 3.0 GPA or above honored during halftime.

Horton provided the Committee with a handout (attached hereto) detailing the average amount of classes missed by student-athletes due to travel schedules. The Committee asked questions and Horton will create a one-pager per sport further detailing the amount of missed classes due to travel. Varjas called for a vote on the travel schedules that were sent to the Committee via email and the schedules were unanimously approved.

IV. Future Meetings

Varjas announced the upcoming facilities tours and that the large senate meeting is on April 14, 2016. Voting for the next Chair will be at the next meeting on April 20, 2016.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.