

**GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS**  
**UNIVERSITY SENATE COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 20, 2015**

I. Call to Order

Kristen Varjas called to order the meeting of the University Senate Committee on Athletics at 1:16 p.m. in the College of Education Room 353.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was presented to approve the minutes from April 2, 2015. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Attendees-

Charlie Cobb, Jacob English, Kerry Heyward, Brad Horton, Shelley Linens, Robert Moore, Erik Paz, Joseph Peragine, George Pierce, Chester Phillips, Sebastian Rand, Kelcey Roegiers-Jensen, Corneill Stephens, and Kristen Varjas.

III. Standing Reports

A. Chair Report

Kristen Varjas welcomed the new members of the committee and announced that she sent a copy of the bylaws out to everyone for review.

Varjas discussed voting on the competition schedules that were sent out by Erik Paz. Paz went over the summary sheets of schedules. Joseph Peragine asked how Athletics calculates the expected number of classes missed. Paz stated that he and Brad Horton go over each student-athlete's class schedule in comparison to the competition schedule in order to avoid missed classes. The total missed class numbers are computed using only student-athletes with classes on competition or travel days. Richard Moore pointed out that women's golf will miss the most classes because they compete on Mondays and Tuesdays, but they seem to have the highest GPA. Varjas mentioned that there are concerns because there is no consistency across sports because of individual scheduling. She asked why the football team is missing one and a half class days for a home Friday night competition. This is odd because the team flies to Arizona, but does not miss any classes and she inquired as to why. Paz stated that the majority of the football team does not have Friday classes and Saturday does not count as a class day, so that is why they have zero missed classes for the Arizona trip. With regards to the Friday night home competition, it is at the coach's discretion to decide when the students leave for the hotel the Thursday before, and that time is typically after most of the students' last classes.

Corneill Stephens asked if Athletics looks into how other schools around the NCAA handle travel and competition schedules. Horton stated that Athletics looks at the how other schools travel with regards to the amount of academic support staff that goes on the road with each team to conduct tests and study hall hours as well as what type of technology they use such as laptops and iPads. George Pierce mentioned that golf and baseball miss the most classes and Athletics uses the "best practices" as far as travel and scheduling goes. Stephens inquired about if Athletics looks at "best practices" of schools

like Duke and Stanford, or if the department just looks at Sun Belt Conference schools. Charlie Cobb stated that Athletics looks at schools with similar resources to Georgia State and has identified schools such as Memphis, Houston, Temple, and USF as role models for our “best practices.” Varjas stated that the focus is on what is best for the student-athletes and that is how the decisions are made. Peragine asked if the competition schedules could be made prior to when the students register for classes. Horton stated that the advisors meet with the students with the knowledge of previous competition schedules in mind and they anticipate missed classes, so they typically work around when they expect the competitions to take place. It is not in the student’s best interest to wait to register for classes because there may not be seats left amongst other potential issues. Varjas mentioned that Athletics regularly communicates with University departments and programs and has ongoing conversations to encourage scheduling flexibility. Cobb mentioned that moving forward football will work to miss the least amount of classes by not traveling as far as often. Athletics will look at the fall schedules for both golf teams moving forward as well. Sebastian Parra asked if there was any available historical data on scheduling for the new senate members to review and use as reference. Paz will provide the last two years of scheduling data.

The schedules were put to a vote and were unanimously approved.

B. Athletic Director’s Report

Athletic Director Charlie Cobb announced that Monday, April 27, 2015 is the Student-Athlete Awards Banquet. All committee members are invited and an invitation will be sent out following the meeting.

C. Sports Medicine

Bob Murphy, Associate Athletic Director for Sports Medicine announced that the department conducted 544 drug tests on our student-athletes. There were three positive results and all were for recreational drugs. Murphy mentioned that this number is on the low side and there are usually 8-12 positives per year. Murphy said the tests were unannounced and the student-athletes were informed immediately following practice. This is done to avoid diluted samples due to the amount of time given with notification. All student-athletes are tested within the first 60 days of the semester, then random testing is conducted throughout the remainder of the year. Murphy stated that we have the ability to test for recreational and performance enhancing drugs, but the NCAA comes in and tests for performance enhancing drugs only.

Varjas reminded the committee that the policy was changed last year to allow for flexibility regarding game suspension for those who tested positive. Murphy stated that if a student-athlete tests positive, they are suspended for one competition and referred to the GSU Counselling and Testing Center to go through the counselling program.

D. Voting for Chair

Shelley Linens nominated Kris Varjas as Chair for the 2015-16 academic year. George Pierce seconded Linens’ motion. Sebastian Parra closed the nomination period. Chester Phillips seconded Parra’s motion. The committee voted and Kris Varjas was unanimously approved as Chair.

IV. Future Meetings

- i. Kelcey Roegiers-Jensen will send out the proposed meeting dates and times for the 2015-16 academic year via email.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.