COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS
Minutes of the Meeting
February 5, 2002
12:15 p.m. 840 IPP

Members Present:      Jim Boles                Dan Franklin               Jestin Johnson
                     Kurt Keppler           Tonda Linsey               Mike Metzler
                     Greg Manning           Felix Rioja                 Ross Rubenstein
                     Jill Sharritt           Andrew Sumner          Laurie Tis
                     Leslie Williams

Members Absent:      Paul Voss

Additional Attendees: Carol Cohen        John Hartwell      Michelle Olmsted

Call To Order
The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by chair Andrew Sumner.

Approval of Minutes
A motion was made to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Future Meetings
Future meeting times and dates are as follows:
   Tuesday, April 23 at 12:15 p.m. in 840 IPP

Grade Report
Carol Cohen gave a semester grade report. The department maintained the goal of a 2.5 overall GPA. Men’s basketball has improved and is still working very hard. There were no athletes lost to academics, and there are only about 12 they are keeping a close eye on. The academic department continues to work very hard. The department is showing its dedication to academics by putting more than $260,000 into the 5th year program to make sure student athletes graduate. Their 5th year graduation rate is 92%! Athletes continue to do well individually with 12 making the Faculty Scholar List (4.0) and 24 making the Dean’s List (3.5) and 75 making the A.D. Honor Roll (3.0).

Carol expressed her concerns with the Regents Test class proposed changes by Admission and Standards. They are proposing that if a student has not passed the Regents Test after 75 hours, then they must take the Regents class until they pass it. The discussion centered around how to make Admissions and Standards aware of the Athletic Departments standpoint. Carol Cohen will be attending their next meeting to help explain.

Development Report
Michelle Olmsted gave a report on the annual giving to the University Foundation for Athletics. The department has seen a steady increase from 2000 to 2001 to 2002. The department is still doing lots of work to get more outside funding, but the improvement is evident. Currently, the department has $136,307 in contributions for FY02 compared to $144,964 for the entire FY01.

Financial Report
John Hartwell handed out the budget statement. The budget looks better than expected because of the
increased headcount. The department plans to pay $284,504 toward their deficit with the additional headcount monies. John indicated that the department is in the final stages with Coke. This contract means $220,000 for this year, and $135,000 for the next five years in revenue to the department. John also discussed their disappointment in gate receipts this year. They were expecting much more from the games with Georgia and Mississippi State, but despite large promotion for the games, the fan turnout was relatively small.

Athletic Director Report

Greg Manning gave an athletics update. Carl Patton and Tom Lewis met with Shirley Franklin and Cathy Woolard. They hope their conversation will help the department get more involved with Betsy Grant so they can add more courts and make it Georgia State’s tennis home. The department is still working on the plans to put an indoor practice facility at the softball fields. However, they have found out that most of the building is to be built on a flood plain, and they have to get all the details sorted out. The baseball facility has some of the same issues with the flood plain. The department has been allocated the money to renovate the sports arena, and the department hopes to be moved by August.

Men’s and Women’s basketball are both doing well. The men are a half game out of first and the women are trying to get healthy. Baseball will be starting soon. Unfortunately, the head coach is out sick and had to have a cancerous tumor removed. He is doing well, but may not be well enough to coach this season. The assistant coach is stepping in to help. Softball and Men’s & Women’s tennis are all improving and expected to do well.

Greg indicated the department’s current focus. They are looking to balance the budget and get out of debt. With the increased enrollment and outside funding opportunities, things are looking good. The next focus is to put their efforts into helping get the student activity fee funding to renovate Panthersville by paving the lot, getting new signage, putting up a new rod iron fence, and improving the fields for intramurals. This renovation will help the department as well as the students.

The Atlantic Sun conference in which our teams belong will be having some changes over the next couple of years. We will be losing Jacksonville State and Samford and possibly UCF and Troy State. We are adding Belmont, Gardner Webb and Lipscomb.

New Business

Andy Sumner wanted to know if there was a way to publicize what the Athletics Department was doing more through GroupWise or other means. He felt that a lot of the campus is unaware of the events and games that are happening in campus. Greg indicated that they are working on all types of marketing plans.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Recorder, Leslie Williams