Committee on Athletics
Minutes of the Meeting
February 11, 203
12:15 p.m. Sports Arena Conference Room

Members Present: Dan Benardot                    Sid Crow                    Rashida Davis
                 Paula Eubanks                  Dan Franklin                Chip Gallagher
                 Peggy Gallagher               Greg Manning                Mike Metzler
                 David Pavesic                  Marti Singer                Debra Snell
                 Andrew Sumner                  Corey Thompson              Laurie Tis
                 Leslie Williams                Jim Wolk

Members Absent:  Jim Boles                       John Diehl                  Roger Griffeth
                 John Marshall                  Chuck Marvin                Richard Miller
                 Scott Owen                     Roger Presley               Rebecca Stout

Additional Attendees: Kara Ansotegui  Carol Cohen                  John Hartwell
                     Cathy Jones                   Michelle Olmsted            Jennifer Santiago

Call To Order
The meeting was called to order at 12:25 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.

Athletic Director Report
Greg Manning updated the committee on the department. Greg announced the retirement of Lefty Driesell and that Assistant Coach Mike Perry will take over as head coach. The gym is getting a new floor put in, and it will be named “Charles Lefty Driesell Court”. This will be announced during homecoming. The new center score clock is also in place in the sports arena.

The baseball team house is complete and a formal dedication will take place on March 25. The softball facility is nearly complete and will be dedicated on April 9. A new soccer scoreboard has also been added. Panthersville is looking very good with the renovations and updates.

The Student Athlete Banquet will be held on April 29 in the Sports Arena.

Men’s and Women’s basketball are both doing well. The men are currently third in the conference and the women are tied for first. The men’s tournament will be held at Georgia State, so we are hoping for good things. The tournament costs about $110,000 to host, turnout is very crucial to make back the investment. Golf just finished 7th in the Gator Invitational which has some very competitive teams participating. Men’s and Women’s tennis is very talented and women’s track is about to start. All teams have great potential.

The only major disappointment/challenge for the department this year has been attendance at events. The teams dominate the conference, yet turnout is very low. Dave Pavesic asked if Lefty’s leaving would hurt attendance. Greg responded that it might hurt in the short term, but the department is working on lots of different aspects to help increase attendance. An important element is for the teams to continue to win.
Academic Report
Jennifer Santiago handed out the academic highlights for Fall 2002. The department continued to work toward the goal of a 2.50 GPA for each team. Eleven of the 14 teams had a 2.73 or higher. Men’s tennis had the highest team GPA with a 3.26 and the Women’s Cross Country was next highest with a 3.20 GPA. Two athletes were lost for academics, one for NCAA requirements and one for GSU requirements. Jennifer indicated that transfers seem to struggle; they come in with good records and then don’t do well here. The department has started one-on-one tutoring for students at risk.

Cathy Jones handed out the 2003 Academic Reform Initiatives for the NCAA. Cathy indicated that current athletes don’t fall under these guidelines, but all new athletes will have to follow them. The new requirements are expected to affect transfer athletes the most.

Carol Cohen handed out and reviewed the scholastic discipline guidelines that are being discussed in Admissions and Standards. Currently, warning and supervision are still technically good standing, but if the change goes into place, these will not be considered good standing, which will affect student athletes.

Development Report
Michelle Olmsted reminded the committee of the department’s goal of fund-raising in the unrestricted category of $165,000. As of February 1, about $93,000 had been raised. Taking into account all other pledge commitments they are at about 82% of the $165,000 goal. The faculty and staff campaign is kicking off, so please encourage employees to give to athletics.

Marketing Director Report
Kara Ansotegui announced that faculty and staff night was coming up on Thursday. Homecoming is right around the corner and games are on Saturday at 2:00 and 4:30. You can buy tickets in advance for only $5 for both games.

Kara added that they are working on a new program “Ticket to College” which helps socio-economically challenged to get enthused about going to college.

Financial Report
John Hartwell handed out the budget update. The department should finish in the black, which is very good. Sponsors are still not willing to throw money at the department, they want guaranteed numbers and at this point that is just not a predictable number for the teams.

New Business
Peggy Gallagher asked about the status of NCAA football at GSU. The committee was reminded that there is no plan for a football team at Georgia State, currently it is a sports club, and the plan is for it to stay that way. Adding a football team costs too much and has too many Title IX implications.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m. Recorder, Leslie Williams