COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS  
Minutes of the Meeting  
September 23 2003  
12:15 p.m. Sports Arena Conference Room

Members Present:  
Dan Benardot  
LaLoria Konata  
John Marshall  
Marti Singer  
Andrew Sumner  
Laurie Tis  
Peggy Gallagher  
Paula Eubanks  
Andrea Hill  
Jean Miller  
Corneill Stephens  
Rebecca Stout  
Greg Manning  
Tiffany Ross  
Rebecca Stout

Members Absent:  
Jim Boles  
Rashida Davis  
Dan Franklin  
Jim Wolk

Additional Attendees:  
Carol Cohen  
Sid Crow  
Matt Gillett  
Cathy Jones  
Michelle Olmsted  
Leslie Williams

Call To Order
The meeting was called to order at 12:18 p.m. by chair-elect Laurie Tis.

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 indicated that overall the teams are doing great this season and he could not be happier. Volleyball is off to a great start of 14-3. Soccer is currently 6th and playing games at the Forsyth Soccer Complex, where they are getting great crowds compared to Panthersville. Men and Women’s Cross country finished first at a recent meet and men’s golf has ranked in the top 50 all year.

Greg then shared with the Committee the finding of the Assessment of Athletics. The two main objectives of Athletics are to graduate students and to be the premiere 1AAA athletic team in the country. Currently, 95% of student athletes who exhaust eligibility graduate and last year we were 29th of 89 schools in 1AAA without football. The goal is to be in the top ten. The findings of the assessment included the fact that the student profile is changing, the students are more traditional and on campus housing has been a plus. We are starting to become students’ first choice school in many sports. The department has been looking into changing conferences, but it all comes down to resources. The assessment also indicated the Department has integrity and is winning the right way, but no one knows about them. The program is not widely promoted by the University or the Department.

The Department is planning a men’s and women’s game in Gwinnett on December 1 and they are having 11 billboards up for 30 days around the Atlanta area to promote the event. The department sees themselves as ambassadors for the University, when they do well, it looks good for the University too.

The assessment also looked at vulnerabilities. The program is severely under-funded. It has the lowest per sport expenditure except for men’s and women’s basketball in the conference. The department will have to focus efforts to raise more money and market by bringing outside revenue in to help balance the budget. On
a positive note, we are one of 40 of the 327 schools that actually operate in the black. However, 84% of the revenue came from 13 donors and 61% of giving dollars were capital. We need more to find more donors like those 13.

Capital needs identified include a baseball fence, tennis venue, and furniture for new space. The goals for Athletics include meeting revenue goals, getting men and women in NCAA tournaments, graduating students and increasing marketing to make Georgia State a place people grow up wanting to attend.

A copy of the assessment report will be forward to the Committee members.

**Academic Report**
Carol Cohen indicated there was not a full report as this was the middle of the semester. The students are doing well with only a few attendance issues. Carol shared with the Committee a report from USA Today on NCAA Academic Achievement. Georgia State was ranked in Division 1AAA athlete graduation rate above the student body rate and graduation rate increase from 1995 rate. Athletics does a great job and is hoping to move up in these categories in future years.

**Financial Report**
Matt Gillett has filled in for John Hartwell. The department put $500,000 toward the deficit this summer, which cut the deficit in half. The department seems to be on track with the 5yr plan and they continue to help coaches with their budgets.

**Future Meeting Dates**
Wednesday, November 19 at 12:15 p.m. in the Sports Arena, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Tuesday, February 10 at 12:15 p.m. in the Sports Arena, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Wednesday, April 14 at 12:15 p.m. in the Sports Arena, 2nd Floor Conference Room

**New Business**
The Committee discussed for awhile what it might take to move to another conference and ways that Athletics can be promoted on campus and in the city. The idea to cost account what it might actually cost to join a new conference could be a project for a graduate business student, which would give the department good information at a low cost to them. Additionally, the idea to use inside graphic designers for billboards might help defray costs.

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

Recorder, Leslie Williams