MINUTES
Senate Athletic Committee
February 12, 2009
3:00 p.m.

Members Present:
Teryl Frey - Chair, William Feldhaus, Rebecca Stout, Kris Varjas, San Miller, Evan Eskridge, Bill Curry, Robert Slavis, Marvin Lewis, Gail Barksdale, Dena Freeman-Patton,

Members Not Present:

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Teryl Frey at 3:10 PM.

Approval of Minutes
Approved 6-0

Athletic Director's Report – Given by Bill Curry, Interim Director of Athletics
There will be two candidates on campus interviewing for the open Athletic Director position on February 23-24.

On February 4, the football team signed 27 of the 30 young men they recruited. Coach Curry’s goal is to have 50 student-athletes report in August 2009.

The purchase of 188 MLK is complete and construction is scheduled to begin late spring or early summer, depending on how long it takes the City of Atlanta to issue the University building permits. The University is currently researching potential practice facilities for the team to use during the upcoming season, while their permanent practice facility is being constructed. Morris Brown is currently the coaching staff’s first choice, as it has all the amenities the team will need to conduct practice, including weight training, laundry, and sports medicine facilities. It will cost approximately $1.75 million to clear the land and install the two practice fields (100 yard artificial turf & 50 w/end zone grass turf). The entire project will cost approximately $8-9 million to complete.

The coaching staff for women’s lacrosse will be hired in early spring and will begin competition in the CAA in the spring of 2011. The team will practice and compete at Panthersville.

Compliance Report – Given by Rob Slavis, Assistant AD for Compliance
The Academic Progress Rate (APR) shall account for the institution's success in retaining and graduating all such student-athletes. Further, the rate shall account for the academic eligibility of the student-athletes including all applicable NCAA, conference and institutional academic eligibility requirements. Each student-athlete on athletic scholarship will be in the yearly cohort. Each student-athlete can earn two points for each semester in the cohort, one point if they are retained for the next semester and one point if they are eligible for the next semester. The point totals will be combined for the single year score and will be combined with the past three years to give the multi-year score. The maximum score is 1000 and the NCAA minimum score is 925.
MINUTES
Senate Athletic Committee
February 12, 2009
3:00 p.m.

If a team’s score is above 925 they are not subject to penalties. If a team’s score is below 925 and they have any student-athlete who in their last semester received 0 out of 2 points (they were ineligible and not retained) the team will be subjected to a reduction of scholarships for the next academic year.

For the 2007-08 academic year both the Men's Basketball team and Baseball team were subject to scholarship reductions. The Baseball team took their reduction during the 2008-09 academic year, while the Men's Basketball team will take their scholarship reduction in 2009-10.

The handouts given out during the meeting were the following:
1) Comparison of CAA schools, Georgia and Georgia Tech for the 2001-02 class. They included the graduation rates, graduation success rate and the exhausted eligibility rates.
2) APR comparison of CAA schools, Georgia and Georgia Tech for 2006-07.
3) 2007-08 Georgia State APR breakdown by team.

**Academic Report** – Given by Dena Freeman-Patton, Assistant AD for Student Athlete Development
The Athletics Department recorded its all-time high performance in posting a 3.02 cumulative GPA and a 3.01 semester GPA for fall 2008. Men’s track had the highest men’s team GPA and women’s track had the women’s highest team GPA. We met our departmental goal of having every team at a 2.5 or higher cumulative GPA, in that every team is at a 2.6 or higher. The men’s basketball team is currently at its highest ever team GPA. They had two student-athletes to graduate this past year and have two seniors on track to graduate this spring. The athletics department has continued to increase graduation rates and APR (Academic Progress Rate) scores.

We have changed the way we send progress reports with the committee’s previous support. We started using a web-based program called GradesFirst that sends progress reports through email in which faculty can respond about all student-athletes in their classes. It makes the process easier for faculty while giving us immediate information. With the assistance of Provost Henry, we received a 60% response rate from faculty this fall semester.

An article was presented about how universities across America are putting millions of dollars into their academic support programs. This has helped with graduation rates but there is some opposition. Georgia State’s academic support program is run on significantly less and is very successful. However, we will need more resources to accommodate the new football and women’s lacrosse teams at the same level.

**Budget Report** – Given by Marvin Lewis, Associate AD for Finance & Administration
Fiscal Year 2008
We just recently completed an audit of the financial statements for fiscal year 2008. The audited financial statements reflect an unrestricted operating surplus of approximately $482K for fiscal year 2008. This reduced our fiscal year 2007 unrestricted fund deficit of $1.6M to $1.1M at the end of fiscal year 2008.
Fiscal Year 2009
The Athletic Department has incurred increased revenues during the fiscal year due to the $85 student fee increase (effective Fall 2008) and the increased enrollment figures for the year (approximately 28K enrolled students). As of December 31, 2008, our revenue has increased by over $2.3M in comparison to prior year.

On the expenditure side, our coaching and administrative staff has done a good job of finding areas of cost savings as travel costs have increased during the year. As of December 31, 2008, in comparison to the annual budget our total expenditures were down 6% from prior year.

Please note that as a result of the Board of Regents and the University’s budget cuts, the Athletic Department was tasked with reducing its fiscal year 2009 budget by 2% (effective January 1, 2009).

Old/New Business
The committee chair, Mr. Frey, asked Gail Barksdale to send copies of the 2009 Spring Sport Schedule to the committee for them to review and approve.

Ms. Miller shared with the group that the GSU Bookstore and Auxiliary Services will once again sponsor Panther Madness during the final men’s home basketball game on Wednesday, February 25. The winner of the contest will receive a $10,000 book scholarship at the GSU Bookstore.

Adjournment
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 P.M.