MINUTES
Senate Committee on Athletics
April 23, 2009
3:00 p.m.

Members Present:
Teryl Frey - Chair, William Feldhaus, Rebecca Stout, Kris Varjas, San Miller, Jonathan Janos, Andrew Sumner, Peggy Gallagher, Cheryl L. Levick, 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 3:05 PM. The committee welcomed Ms. Cheryl L. Levick to the committee and university.

Election
It was voted to re-elect (8-0) Teryl Frey as chair of the committee.

Approval of Minutes
A motion was made to approve the minutes, second, and passed unanimously.

Athletic Director's Report – Given by Cheryl L. Levick, Director of Athletics
Ms. Levick shared with the group a newly created senior associate athletic director position has been created and has been filled by James Greenwell. James’ first day with the athletic department will be May 4th.

In addition to hiring James, Levick has been very busy her first few weeks in the department trying to solve the department’s space issues, finalizing the contract with the Georgia Dome, meeting all Vice Presidents and Deans, and securing fields for football to practice on while their permanent fields are being built.

Ms. Levick also shared the following athletic department highlights with the committee:

GEORGIA STATE ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS
The Georgia State athletics year is highlighted by Colonial Athletic Association team titles in women’s tennis and women’s golf.

For the women’s tennis program, the conference title and NCAA berth are the first in school history. Head coach Miha Lisac, a Georgia State graduate in just his second season, was named CAA Coach of the Year.

The Georgia State golf programs continue to excel. The women’s program won its second CAA title in four years and has earned an NCAA regional berth for the fifth time in the last seven years under head coach Cathy Mant. The men’s program, coached by former PGA and Champions Tour pro Joe Inman, was the CAA runner-up this year and hopes to earn an NCAA at-large berth, which would be the team’s 10th NCAA appearance in the last 11 years.
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Four spring sports are currently in the Top 75 in the nation:
- Women’s Golf, No. 27 (Golfweek ranking)
- Women’s Tennis, No. 41 (ITA ranking)
- Men’s Golf, No. 57 (Golfweek ranking)
- Softball, No. 72 (RPI)

In addition to the two team titles, Georgia State student-athletes have won eight individual CAA Championships in golf, cross country and track and field in 2008-09.

The softball team stands in second place in the CAA standings, while baseball is in fourth place.

Runner Mark Steeds earned all-America honors in cross country last fall, becoming just the second first-team all-America in Georgia State history. Now he seeks all-America honors in track and field in the 5,000 meters after placing 12th in the event at last year’s NCAA Championships.

Finally, the committee suggested ways in which the department could improve student attendance at athletic events. Ms. Levick shared with the group she had recently met with the Student Government Association (SGA) and discussed this topic. A few ideas noted were: target freshman, get SGA more involved, create a competition/contest between student groups, and play high school basketball games prior to our games if possible.

**Faculty Athletic Representative Report** — Given by Andrew Sumner, FAR and Director - Institute of Health Administration, Robinson College of Business

The role and responsibilities of the FAR position (an appointed position of the President) and its relationship to the NCAA, CAA, athletics department and this Senate committee were discussed. Dr. Sumner (an elected Senator) emphasized that the FAR position is a permanent voting member of the committee, which ensures FAR and Senate Athletics Committee communication, even if the FAR designate is not an elected Senator.

**Academic Report** — Given by Dena Freeman-Patton, Assistant AD for Student Athlete Development

Student-Athlete Development is currently preparing student-athletes for final exams. Freeman-Patton will report on both spring and summer grades at the fall Senate Committee on Athletics meeting. The department expects to have 29 graduates this spring. Several others will attend summer school and graduate in the fall.

The progress reporting system seems to be working well in getting timely information from faculty about our student-athletes. There is some concern about privacy from faculty and some hesitation in giving this information. All student-athletes sign a Buckley Amendment waiver that allows the department access to their academic information. This is mandated by the NCAA because of the number academic progress rules. Also, the Provost has endorsed this method of retrieving progress reports and reached out to the faculty to inform them of the importance of getting information on all the department’s student-athletes. Members of the committee suggested working with the Registrar to see if they can help facilitate. Other departments on campus are trying to use the same system, Grades First, to track their students.
Compliance Report – Given by Rob Slavis, Assistant AD for Compliance
Academic Progress Rate (APR) / Graduation Success Rate (GSR) data will be released to the public on May 22nd.

Eligibility review will begin after grades are final and have been posted. The athletic department will first review teams that are still competing to make sure all student-athletes are eligible for postseason competition. Once those reviews are complete the staff will begin to review the remaining teams.

A question was asked if there was an age limit for student-athletes (referring to the 35 year old football walk-on). In Division I there is a five-year running clock when a student first enrolls full-time at any college or university. If the student delays full-time enrollment his or her five-year clock will be delayed from starting. When a student turns 21 years old (20 years old in men's and women's tennis) and competes in outside competition he or she would use a season of competition for each year in which he or she competed in any outside competition. This rule tends to impact sports other than football, which is why you see less older students trying to compete in the other sports.

Budget Report – Given by Marvin Lewis, Associate AD for Finance & Administration
Currently the department is in the process of preparing the budget for fiscal year 2010. Each administrative unit and athletic team has submitted a budget proposal for review. Marvin Lewis, Associate AD for Finance, will meet with each sport administrator and senior staff member to discuss the needs of their respective areas and then determine a budget for approval by our Athletic Director.

Please note that this upcoming fiscal year, the athletic department is expecting an additional $1M in student fee revenue for the year. The additional revenue is due to the application of the $85 student fee increase (effective Fall 2008) to summer enrollment.

Also note that the expenditures for the year will be increased. Since there will be additional football student-athletes starting in the fall, the department will direct budgetary funding to Football operations, administrative support (staffing and operations), and Women's Lacrosse start-up costs.

Finally, our department is in a period of growth but still wants to be good stewards of the University. Therefore, the Athletic Director, Cheryl L. Levick, has communicated the University's budget challenges to all coaches and staff. The ideas of closing offices for two weeks in December, temperature control adjustments, or regulation of utility usage have all been presented. The department understands it needs to make sure that it does its part to contribute to the University's cost savings initiatives.
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Old/New Business
The committee approved unanimously the 2009 schedules of all fall sports.

The committee recommended that the athletic department arrange to have individuals directed to the athletic department’s website directly from the university’s home page.

An update on the university’s attendance policy was discussed and it was reported that the new proposed university attendance policy has gone through the Admissions and Standards subcommittee. The department is now waiting for it to be approved by the Executive Board. The current attendance policy puts student-athletes at a disadvantage with the changes in competition schedules within the CAA. It was also an area of concern when the department went through our NCAA certification.

Future Meeting
Discussion ensued regarding the day and times for holding this committee’s future meetings. Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. was agreed upon as a desired day and time.

Our 2009-10 meeting schedule is as follows:
September 10, 2009 @ 12:15
February 11, 2010 @ 12:15
April "TBD", 2010 @ 12:15

All meetings will be held in the Athletics Department’s conference room on the second floor of the sports arena.

Adjournment
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 P.M.