SENATE COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS
MINUTES
September 3, 2009
3:00 P.M.

Members Present:
Teryl Frey - Chair, Peggy Gallagher, Kerry Hayward, Cheryl L. Levick, Mike Metzler,
Andrew Sumner, Kris Varjas, Gail Barksdale, Dena Freeman-Patton, James Greenwell,
Marvin Lewis, Rob Slavis.

Members Not Present:
William Feldhaus, Richard Fendler, Geoffrey Haydon, Jonathan Janos, Sandy Miller,
Tim O’Keefe, Mariela Rodriguez, Corneill Stephens, Rebecca Stout, Chris Sumter,
Gordon Vernick.

Call to Order
Mr. Frey called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. All members were present as noted above.
The minutes reflect major action items and the sense of the meeting discussion. Detailed notes
are available on file in the conference office.

Approval of Minutes
The committee approved the April 23, 2009 Senate Committee on Athletics minutes.

Review Role/Responsibility of Committee
Mr. Frey reviewed the duties of the committee which are outlined below:
1. To recommend to the Senate for its approval any regulations pertaining to athletic
   organizations.
2. To advise the Senate in matters concerning the relationship between athletic and
   academic interests of the University (specifically providing comments related to the
   impact of proposed GSU or NCAA academic requirements on student-athletes to the
   Senate Committee on Admissions and Standards).
3. To consider and recommend rules and regulations to the Director of Athletics relative to
   student eligibility and participation in all forms of intercollegiate athletics.
4. To review the overall calendars of athletic teams and make recommendations where
   appropriate to the Director of Athletics.
5. To consider the criteria and process of awarding of all athletic scholarships and make
   recommendations to the Director of Athletics.
6. To make recommendations to the President regarding the prospective employment of the
   Director of Athletics.
7. To conduct periodic evaluations of the total intercollegiate athletic program.
8. To review with the Director of Athletics matters of long-range athletic program planning
   and make recommendations where appropriate.
9. To insure all relevant issues dealing with the athletic program at Georgia State University
    falling within this committee’s area of responsibility are considered.

He also noted that the committee meets three times per year in September, February, and April.
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Athletic Director’s Report – Given by Cheryl L. Levick, Director of Athletics
Ms. Levick shared with the committee a PowerPoint presentation that outlined many of the accomplishments and highlights in the athletics department that were achieved since the last meeting. Some of these highlights included:

- 303 student-athletes.
- 3.03 Overall GPA for student athletes.
- With the addition of football GSU now sponsors 18 sports.
- 71 football players reported to campus on August 11th.
- Chester Phillips was hired as GSU’s first director of athletic bands.
- GSU’s first Marching Band is being assembled.
- A new fight song is being written and composed.

- A new mascot & logo.
- New academic center.
- Temporary locker room in aquatic center.
- New weight room.
- New community service partners: NFL YET and Boys & Girls Club of Atlanta.
- Student-athletes’ goal is to complete 3,000 hours of community service.

Levick shared with the group that merchandise with the new GSU mascot and logo would be available for purchase in the bookstore by Thanksgiving.

Discussion ensued over the university and department’s use of the GSU acronym. Ms. Levick and Hayward shared with the committee that university had secured the use of the acronym and that Georgia Southern uses the GS acronym. The committee asked if the entire University could also use the new mascot and logo on business cards, letterhead, etc.. Ms. Levick and Hayward stated yes and should speak with Ellen Powell in university relations. The committee asked if there was away to have access to the logos through a secure website instead of going through university relations department. Ms. Hayward said she would check and get back to the committee.

Ms. Levick informed the committee that all athletic department staff members are participating in the Board of Regents furlough. She noted that due to practice and competition schedules, not all athletic department personnel would be able to take their furlough days on the university-wide furlough days and the human resources has provided the department the flexibility to take these days at another time. She also noted that all competitions scheduled on a university wide furlough day would still occur.

Ms. Levick updated the committee on the status of the athletic department’s five-year strategic plan. She noted that she would bring a draft to the committee for their review and recommendations.
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Faculty Athletic Representative Report – Given by Andrew Sumner, FAR and Director - Institute of Health Administration, Robinson College of Business

Mr. Sumner reviewed with the committee the policy and procedures for the NCAA required coaches exam. He noted that all coaches must pass this exam before they are permitted to participate in any recruiting activities.

Mr. Sumner also shared with the group the desire to have the CAA incorporate the FAR more in its meetings and decision making process. Ms. Levick stated she is an advocate of this and will work on this at the athletic director’s level to help make this a reality. She noted that the President is also an advocate and with several institutions within the conference appointing a new president, change may be possible.

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

Ms. Freeman-Patton reported the results of the Spring 2009 and Summer 2009 semester grades. During the Spring 2009 semester, the athletics department posted a 3.03 cumulative and 3.05 semester GPA, which is an increase from the Fall semester’s departmental best with every team at or above a 2.63 GPA. This included our one scholarship football player, Mark Hogan, who earned a 4.0. The women’s tennis and men’s track teams had the highest semester GPA. The Summer 2009 GPA of 3.04 included about 100 student-athletes. There were 30 Spring graduates and 11 Summer graduates. Men’s basketball’s seniors, Leonard Mendez and Rashad Chase graduated this spring within a four-year window. There were also two former men’s basketball players to graduate this summer, Anton Reese, who was on the NCAA Degree Completion Scholarship and Markeal King.

Student-Athlete Development would like to encourage more of the faculty to participate in progress reporting for our student-athletes. The Senate was asked to suggest ways to reach out to the faculty. Because there are a lot of part-time and student instructors, it was suggested that the information be sent to the Deans and Department Heads so that they could get the word out to the faculty. The Student Advisement Center will also be using the same tracking system to help with retention for the general student body. It was also suggested that something be sent out by the Provost to encourage support from faculty.

The university attendance policy is still being discussed. There are concerns about changing the policy coming from the Executive Senate. The Committee on Athletics encouraged the Director of Athletics and the Faculty Athletic Representative to address the issue with the Senate.

Compliance Report – Given by Rob Slavis, Assistant AD for Compliance

Mr. Slavis shared with the committee that for the 2009-10 academic year the Athletic Department has brought in 138 new student-athletes. This includes 99 freshman and 39 transfers.

He noted that the compliance and academics areas are currently interviewing for a new position. This position will have responsibilities split between the Compliance Office and Office of Student-Athlete Development. The compliance duties will deal with continuing eligibility,
academic progress rate, graduation success rate and graduation rates. The applicant pool is a strong one and hope to the position filled shortly.

The academic progress rate (APR) deadline for submission of the 2008-09 data is approaching. We will have preliminary reports for the committee at the next meeting and will be able to review the data for all teams at that time.

**Finance & Administration Report** — Given by Marvin Lewis, Associate AD for Finance & Administration

Mr. Lewis reported that the Business Office has been extremely busy over the summer with the changes in accounting software, outsourcing of payroll to ADP, the hiring of over 18 new positions, and initial preparation procedures for the EADA report that is due in October.

It was noted that this fiscal year, the department will see the true impact of football. The department will incur a majority of the start-up costs (facilities, scholarships, operations, and recruiting) necessary to prepare the 70 plus football student-athletes for their inaugural season in FY11. The department will also add staffing in the following administrative areas: academics, compliance, business, equipment, strength and conditioning, sports medicine, marketing, development, etc to support the success of all our student-athletes.

**Old Business**

Ms. Levick shared with the committee that she, per the committee’s recommendation, has arranged to have individuals directed to the athletic department’s website directly from the University’s home page.

**New Business**

Ms. Barksdale reviewed with the committee step one of the athletic department’s Women’s Enhancement Plan. She noted that the purpose of this plan is to systematically review female sport opportunities and determine which sports should receive varsity status. This plan will also ensure compliance to Title IX and that the interests of female student-athletes are being met.

Mr. Greenwell reviewed step one of the athletics department’s Master Facility Plan.

Mr. Frey reviewed the athletic department’s 2009-10 winter and Spring Sports Schedules. The committee then voted and unanimously approved these schedules.

**Future Meeting**

Mr. Frey reminded the committee that its next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2010 @ 12:15 and its April meeting date is "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**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 P.M.