Members Present
Perry Binder, Fred Brooks, Peggy Gallagher, Kerry Heyward, Cheryl L. Levick, Mike Metzler, Chester Phillips, George Pierce, Andrew Sumner, Kris Varjas- Chair, Gail Barksdale, Dena Freeman-Patton, James Greenwell, Marvin Lewis, Robert Slavis.

Members Not Present
Richard Fendler, Justin Hails, Sandy Miller, Parth Modi, Corneill Stephens, Rebecca Stout.

Call to Order
Ms. Varjas called the meeting to order at 11:40 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 athletic department.

Approval of Minutes
The committee unanimously approved the February 11, 2010 Senate Committee on Athletics minutes with the following correction; Mike Metzler was not present.

Committee Chair’s Report
Ms. Varjas reviewed with the group the committee’s role and responsibilities based on the committee’s current by-laws. She noted that these by-laws are not accurate and need to be updated. A three to four person sub-committee will be formed to review the by-laws and provide the committee with recommendations for changes at its next meeting.

Athletic Director’s Report
Ms. Levick reviewed with the committee the five staff and student-athletes goals for the 2010-11 academic year.

Staff Goals
1. Successfully launch the football program in its inaugural season.
2. Finalize and implement a five-year strategic plan for athletics which will include:
   - master facility plan
   - women’s enhancement plan
   - comprehensive five-year budget
   - comprehensive five-year fund raising plan
   - five-year plan for each of the 18 varsity sports
3. Restructure the GSUAA.
4. Win more competitions:
   - at least two (2) CAA Championships for 2010-2011
5. Win more CAA Championships:
   - at least six (6) teams in the Top 3 in CAA for 2010-2011
Student-Athletes Goals
1. Match or exceed a 3.0 overall GPA for ALL student-athletes.
2. Achieve a total of 4,500 hours of community service.
3. Win at least two (2) CAA Championships.
4. Have at least six (6) teams finish in the Top 3 of the CAA.
5. Support your teammates and other Panther teams.

Ms. Levick reviewed with the group the department’s athletic performance the last two years and updated them on its current status.

2009-2010 Season
- Number of Championships: 1 (Women’s Golf)
- Teams in the Top 3 of CAA: 5 (Women’s Golf, Baseball, Softball, Men’s Tennis and Women’s Tennis)

2008-2009 Season
- Number of Championships: 3 (Women’s Golf, Women’s Tennis and Baseball)
- Teams in Top 3 of CAA: 8 (Women’s Golf, Women’s Tennis, Baseball, Men’s Golf, Softball, Men’s and Women’s Cross Country and Women’s Track and Field)

Ms. Levick informed the group that the GSUAA (Georgia State University Athletic Association) will go through a restructuring over the next year and how this restructuring will affect the University Senate Committee on Athletics. She also shared with the committee why a restructure of the GSUAA is needed:

I. Institutional Control:
   A. Board of Regents compliance
   B. NCAA compliance – “checks and balances”

II. Objectives for the GSUAA have changed:
   A. Fiscal Integrity oversight to the President
   B. Fundraising handled by Panther Athletic Club (PAC)
   C. Compliance, Gender Equity, Academics oversight to the Senate Committee & Legal Affairs
   D. Strategic Advisement oversight to the GSUAA

Ms. Levick and Ms. Varjas noted that this restructuring will allow faculty to be more involved and give the committee more of a voice as it advocates for athletics.

Mr. Greenwell shared with the group that the completion of the football practice facility may be delayed due to a change of contractor. The goal is to have the locker room, training room, and equipment room completed in time for spring football practice. The Sports Arena third and fourth floor lighting systems have been upgraded to be more energy efficient and to provide the lighting capacity necessary to host televised games.
Faculty Athletic Representative Report – Andrew Sumner, FAR and Director – Institute of Health Administration, Robinson College of Business

Dr. Sumner shared with the group the role of the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR). Per NCAA bylaw (6.1.3), each member institution must appoint a faculty member to serve as a liaison between the institution and the athletics department, and also as a representative of the institution in conference and NCAA affairs. Each institution determines the role of the FAR at that particular university or college, his/her primary role is to ensure that the institution establishes and maintains the appropriate balance between academics and intercollegiate athletics.

He also gave a brief explanation of the APR (academic progress rate) and its overall purpose. Per the NCAA website, the Academic Progress Rate is a Division I metric developed to track the academic achievement of teams each academic term. Each student-athlete receiving athletically related financial aid earns one retention point for staying in school and one eligibility point for being academically eligible. A team’s total points are divided by points possible and then multiplied by one thousand to equal the team’s Academic Progress Rate score.

For example:
A Division I Football Bowl Subdivision team awards the full complement of 85 grants-in-aid. If 80 student-athletes remain in school and academically eligible, three remain in school but are academically ineligible and two drop out academically ineligible, the team earns 163 of 170 possible points for that term. Divide 163 by 170 and multiply by 1,000 to determine that the team’s Academic Progress Rate for that term is 959.

The NCAA calculates the rate as a rolling, four-year figure that takes into account all the points student-athletes could earn for remaining in school and academically eligible during that period. Teams that do not earn an Academic Progress Rate above specific benchmarks face penalties ranging from scholarship reductions to more severe sanctions.

Teams that score below 925 and have a student-athlete who both failed academically and left school can lose scholarships (up to 10 percent of their scholarships each year) under the immediate penalty structure. Teams with Academic Progress Rates below 900 face additional sanctions, increasing in severity for each consecutive year the team fails to meet the standard.

Compliance Report – Robert Slavis, Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance

Mr. Slavis shared that the most recent Graduation Rates showed an improvement of 8% for the general student body (from 47% to 55%) and a 19% improvement for student-athletes (from 47% to 66%). The four-year class average increased 3% (from 43% to 46%) for the general student body and decreased 2% (from 59% to 57%) for student-athletes. He also noted the new APR Rates will be available for the next meeting.

For the new members of the committee, he also explained what Graduation Success Rates (GSR) are and how they are calculated.
Academic Report — Dena Freeman-Patton, Assistant Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Development

Ms. Freeman-Patton reviewed the academic highlights from the spring 2010 semester. The athletics department maintained a collective 3.03 cumulative and semester GPA. This is the fourth consecutive semester in which the department has achieved a 3.0 or higher. The 2009-2010 academic year also included a full year of football. Seventeen teams earned at least a 2.73 or above, including football at a 2.76 and men's basketball at a 2.96. Our awards included 16 President's List and 62 Dean's List recipients, along with 147 student-athletes on the AD's Honor Roll (3.2 or higher semester or cumulative). The department also celebrated the graduation of 26 student-athletes including six men's basketball players.

Freeman-Patton also discussed the upcoming NCAA self-evaluation of academic support services. This self-evaluation is conducted every four years. Members of the senate committee were asked to participate on a sub-committee to assist with the evaluation.

Finance & Administration Report — Marvin Lewis, Associate Athletic Director for Finance & Administration

Mr. Lewis reported that the Athletic Department ended the fiscal year with a $1.1M surplus. This surplus was largely due to an increase in the student fee revenue (over 30,000 students) and unrestricted gifts and contributions. The surplus will be rolled forward into next fiscal year to fund unforeseen expenses (i.e. equipment, facility costs, staffing, etc.) during the inaugural football season.

Old Business

Ms. Varjas discussed with the committee ways the members could advocate for football and the department to the larger faculty. She suggested that each member take an opportunity to speak on behalf of the athletic department at their next department/college staff meeting. She noted that this is a perfect opportunity to share with their colleagues all the wonderful things (i.e. graduation rates, overall GPA, discount ticket prices, game day promotions) happening in athletics and to encourage them to attend football games. Members of the athletic department staff are available to attend (and speak) these meetings with them.

New Business

Concern was expressed regarding the start time of football games and the volume of the public address announcer. Ms. Levick shared with the group that the 1:00 p.m. start time would be the “official” start time for all home Saturday football games unless TV requires it to change, giving fans the ability to adjust their schedules accordingly. She also noted that everyone, especially the students, liked Thursday night games. She is hoping to have the football team play its season opener on Thursday night each year.

Ms. Levick thanked the committee for their feedback and informed them that James Greenwell is the point of contact for all questions or concerns regarding football game management. In its efforts to improve the “game day” experience, the department welcomes and encourages constructive feedback.

The spring sports 2011 competition schedules were unanimously approved.
The group discussed having Ms. Levick attend a University Senate meeting each year. After a lengthy discussion the group decided it would be best if she attended the first meeting each fall. It was also decided she should share with the University Senate the academic accomplishments of the student-athletes as well as any facility upgrades and/or improvements.

George Pierce, Peggy Gallagher, Kris Varjas and Kerry Heyward volunteered to serve on the bylaws sub-committee. Chester Phillips, Kris Varjas and Mike Metzler volunteered to serve on the NCAA Academic Support Services Self Evaluation sub-committee.

The Senate Committee on Athletics & Athletic Department will host three “tailgating” events throughout the 2010-11 academic year.

- **Date:** Sunday, October 10, 2010  
  **Event:** Women’s and Men's Soccer Game Double Header  
  **Location:** Panthersville  
  **Times:** Women's Game vs. VCU @ 12:00 p.m., Men's Game vs. Northeastern @ 3:00 p.m.  
  **Tailgate:** 2:00 p.m.

- **Date:** Friday, November 5, 2010  
  **Event:** Tour of Student-Athlete Development Facilities and Women's Volleyball Game vs. JMU  
  **Location:** Sports Arena (125 Decatur Street)  
  **Times:** 4:30 p.m. Tour; Dinner 6:00-7:00 p.m.; Volleyball Game 7:00 p.m.

- **Date:** Wednesday, January 26, 2011  
  **Event:** Tour of Football Practice Facility and Men's Basketball Game vs. ODU  
  **Location:** Sports Arena (125 Decatur Street)  
  **Times:** 4:30 p.m. Tour; PAC Reception 6:00-7:00 p.m.; Basketball Game 7:00 p.m.

Please note: You are welcome & strongly encouraged to bring your family with you to each event.

**Future Meetings**  
The next meetings are scheduled for Thursday, February 10 and Thursday, March 24 at 11:30 a.m. Both meetings will take place in room 1025 (Dean’s Conference Room) of the College of Education.

**Adjournment**  
The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.