

University Athletics Academic Advisory Committee
April 3, 2012

Present: Brett Bennett, Anthony Walker, Anthony Malta, Mary Adams, Ulas Ograk, Barbara Michaelides, Tasha Fisher, Sam Bruscato, Carl Thameling, Bobby Staub

Absent: Nate Brown, Roxanne Cassel, Bob Cage, Wilson Campbell

The meeting opened at 4:00 pm. Ograk began the meeting by stating that last month's minutes were approved through email. He then stated that we will write a mission statement for our committee. It should encompass our primary foci for student athletes: scholarship, class attendance, and, ultimately, graduation. This statement should be succinct, explaining "why we exist in one sentence."

We then began a conversation on the subcommittees. A primary concern for members is that we require four subcmtes, yet the overall cmte is itself quite small with twelve members plus two student members. With the exception of Cassel's attendance at the first meeting, we have seen neither student member. Bruscato asked if new members could be added to the subcmtes. Ograk stated, "Yes, but they cannot vote."

Bennett suggested that we may need 2-4 additional faculty members. Michaelides suggested that we wait until the subcmtes become active, saying we would then fully understand how large the various groups need to be.

Cmte members continue to feel that more information and definition is needed concerning the four subcmtes. Bennett suggested that we focus on the yearly report at this time. We can define and re-form the subcmtes in Fall 2012.

It is the consensus of the cmte that the FAR and Assistant FAR will work to define the subcmtes.

AD Report:

Staub began by listing the upcoming events:

--Maroon and Gold Banquet on Wed, May 2nd, honoring 120 student athletes with a 3.00+ GPA

--Night of Champions Fundraiser on Thurs, April 26th

Staub noted that the Assistant Volleyball Coach has taken a head-coaching position elsewhere. He also commented on conference realignment, particularly media reports that Georgia State is joining the Sunbelt.

Senior Compliance Administrator Report:

Fisher learned two weeks ago that ULM is undergoing a Graduation Success Rate Data Review. The NCAA audits 50 schools per year. We have until April 24th to compile data on the following teams: men's and women's indoor track, men's and women's outdoor track, football. Data must be compiled from the 08/09, 09/10, and 10/11 teams.

Tasha's office will be moving to Fant Ewing in the coming weeks. "This will be beneficial in terms of having access to coaches." At this time, she and her staff need desks and desk chairs.

Chair Report:

Ograk distributed three schedules—football, volleyball, and soccer—saying, "We need to look at these and protect the interests of the student athletes." The group studied the schedules, hoping to ensure that no students miss more than necessary—or more than the university allows. ULM regulations require that all students be in their seats for a minimum of 75% of all class meetings, regardless of whether the absence is excused.

A discussion ensued on how early the schedules can be presented to the cmte. Many factors come into play here. Fisher pointed out that the NCAA has a number of rules in place that prevent unreasonably early departures and unreasonably late returns. She then noted that some university athletic programs have policies above and beyond their overall university seat time rules. She recommended that we look into this process. This would give coaches more specific guidelines.

FAR Report:

Bennett reported that the Task Force's penalty structure is working well. "We have seen grade improvements."

Reports from Four Cmtes:

None.

New Business:

Thameling asked if the committee does review the athletic budget, as stated in the Guidelines. "Yes."

Ograk and Bennett will work to present a report next time.

The next meeting will be held on May 1st at 4 pm in the Student Success Center Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Adams
Secretary of UAAAC
April 12, 2012