

# **Athletics Committee Meeting Minutes**

**March 10, 2016**

## **I. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Athletics Committee was called to order at 1:00pm on March 10, 2016

## **II. Roll Call**

Present: Dr. Lisa Clayton, Mrs. Shauna James, Dr. Mark Foster, Mr. Evan Thornton (proxy for Mr. Clinton Carter), Dr. Pat Roden, Dr. Jean Ann Helm Allen, Mr. Alex Gould, Mr. Ulrich Groetsch, Mrs. Whitney Pacil, Mrs. Debbie Williams, Mrs. Doris McDaniel, Mr. Todd Vardaman

Absent: Mr. David Shields, Mr. Clinton Carter, Mrs. Cassie Morgan, and Mr. Adam McCollum

## **III. Approval of the Minutes from the Athletics Committee meeting on March 10, 2016**

Dr. Pat Roden made the motion to approve the minutes from the Athletics Committee meeting on February 2, 2016 and Dr. Jean Ann Helm Allen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

## **IV. FAR Report**

Dr. Pat Roden informed the committee of the following information:

- On March 14-15, 2016, the exit interview will be administered to student-athletes that have exhausted their eligibility.
- The NCAA randomly selected the volleyball and baseball student-athletes to take the NCAA survey regarding wages and gambling.
- The NCAA certification test will be administered to the new coaches.
- The Athletics Committee will attend the home games for UNA Baseball and UNA softball on Saturday, April 9, 2016. The UNA baseball game will begin at 1:00pm and the UNA Softball game will begin at 4:00pm on Saturday, April 9, 2016. The Athletics Committee will be recognized at both games. Athletics Committee members will not have to purchase tickets to the games. Names of Athletics Committee members will be put on the Will Call ticket list.

## **V. Minority Opportunity Committee Report**

Mrs. Doris McDaniel, chair of the Minority Opportunity Committee updated the committee on the Minority Opportunity Workgroup meeting on March 3, 2016.

- Dr. Ansley Quiros, mentor and faculty member at UNA, was a guest speaker at the meeting on March 3, 2016. Dr. Quiros mentors a basketball student-athlete. Dr. Quiros believes it would be less awkward for student athletes to pair female mentors with female mentees, and male mentees with male mentors.
- A First Year Experience (FYE) was also discussed. Dr. Thornell and Dr. Matthew Little liked the idea of the FYE for students. Todd Vardaman and Dr. Little are working together to enroll student-athletes in the FYE course for the fall 2016.
- The Minority Opportunity Committee (MOC) is a sub-committee of the Athletics Committee. The MOC established a mentoring program. One of the goals for the mentoring program is to increase minority retention and graduation rates by demonstrating an interest in the personal growth of the student-athlete. The cohort for the graduation rates 5 years ago for white students was 47% and for black students it was 17%. The graduation rate for the cohort 5 years indicated 49% for white students and 29% for black students. The gap closed by 10% over a 5 year period.
- The administrative staff in the athletics department has met with black student-athletes in small groups and one on one to discuss the hurdles for students when coming in as freshmen. Good feedback has been received. In the fall of 2016 a freshman orientation series will be implemented. The series would be beneficial for student-athletes.

## **VI. Gender Equity Committee Report**

Mrs. Debbie Williams stated the Gender Equity Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 15, 2016.

## **VII. Athletic Director Report**

Mr. Mark Linder updated the committee on the following:

- Members of the athletics department and the UNA Student Counseling Services office have met to discuss the social media and suicide rates. For students that have visited the UNA counseling

service office in the 2013 the rate for students that have considered suicide was 15%, in 2014 the rate was 27% and in 2015 the rate rose to 39%. In the fall of 2016, the UNA Athletics department will take a stance on the issue.

VIII. Mr. Todd Vardaman discussed the Institutional Self Study Guide (ISSG). The ISSG is updated every five years and is due to the NCAA in May 2016. There are two sections of the guide, Compliance and Strategic Initiative. The committee reviewed and discussed the first section, Compliance Initiative.

- Institutional Oversight
- Budgetary Control
- Ethical Conduct
- Recruiting
- Eligibility
- Financial Aid
- Rules and Compliance
- Health and Safety
  - ✓ A concussion management plan is in place.

## **IX. Adjourn**

The next Athletics Committee meeting will be held in April 2016.