Athletics Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 01, 2009

3:30 pm

Present: Ms. Jana Morrison, Dr. Steve Smith, Dr. Sue Wilson, Mr. Mark Linder, Mr. Robbie Burdine, Mr. David Shields, Mrs. Christa Raney, Mrs. Cynthia Burkhead, Mr. Robert Bailey, Mr. Ben Baker.

Absent: Dr. Pat Roden, Mr. McDaniel Ubi

Mrs. Burkhead called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the minutes for the April 27, 2009 meeting. There were no corrections or additions. Dr. Sue Wilson moved to approve the minutes and Mr. Mark Linder seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted as read.

Dr. Roden was absent due to a Staff Senate Meeting.

The new faculty member on the Athletic Committee is Mrs. Christa Raney. She is an instructor in the English department. Mr. Robbie Burdine is one of the student representatives on the committee. Mr. Burdine is also a member of the UNA football team.

The committee discussed Mr. McDaniel Ubi. He is one of the student representatives on the Athletic Committee. He has been diagnosed with Leukemia. Mr. Shields stated that fundraising efforts from various groups are working to help Ubi financially.

Mr. Linder updated the committee on the following:

* The University of North Alabama Athletics Department is on the visit list for the NCAA. The visit is called the Blue Print Program. The NCAA will visit UNA in the fall of 2010.
* The student athletic fee was approved but modified. $150,000 was budgeted for the athletic fee. Students can receive free concession items and can win $100 in gift cards at the home games of UNA. At the Delta State game on Thursday, October 15, 2009, the athletics department will encourage students to sit in the east stands so that they can get on TV. A couple thousand shirts will be given away to generate excitement at the game.
* Marketing signs for UNA home games are posted around campus and in the community.
* The athletics department is using the Grades First program. Grades First is a computer based program that matches up with Banner. The system enables faculty to red flag absentees and post grades. Coaches are able to look in the Grades First program to review progress of their student athletes. The Grades First program was a gift/sponsorship from a UNA alum.
* The Academic Athletics Mentor Program is up and running this year with success. All junior college transfers and freshmen are required to be in the AAMP program.
* Coach Billy Gamble retired this year from the golf program. Stuart Clark is in a volunteer role. He is being paid a stipend and will volunteer throughout the rest of this year.
* The position of a Graphic Design, Video, and Webmaster is in a concept mode. The position would organize media outreach, web stream, and video stream and manage the roarlions website.
* Because of proration the scholarship plan that was implemented four years ago needs to be delayed for a year.
* Mr. Mike Lane helps with fundraising and with corporate partnership. When local restaurants become corporate partner, they donate food coupons. The food coupons then can be used for post game meals for student athletes.
* SMA Licensing Group is the new licensing group for the UNA athletics department. The profits from licensing are split 50/50.
* Student athlete welfare initiatives
* All team sports now use buses instead of vans.
* Football, women’s basketball, and men’s basketball student athletes were tested for Sickle Cell.
* Fifteen football athletes and ten men’s basketball athletes were randomly drug tested. All of the student athletes that were tested had negative test results.

Mr. Linder discussed the pregnancy rule amongst the student athletes. The policy that is now in place is a violation of federal law. The athletic department is working with Tammy Irons, Attorney, to get another pregnancy policy in place.

Mrs. Burkhead stated that she and Mr. Linder discussed the Minority Opportunities and Gender Opportunities subcommittees. The Gender subcommittee has not met in three years. The subcommittees may have more than just Athletic Committee members. Mrs. Burkhead asked for volunteers that would like to be on either committee. Mr. Bailey will chair the Minority Opportunities subcommittee. Mrs. Raney and Ms. Morrison volunteered to be on the Gender Opportunities Committee. Mr. Linder informed the committee that in August of 2009, three minorities were hired as graduate assistants in the athletic department. Waniesha Leonard, Bobby Brooks, and Danielle Palasak were the ones hired.

The NCAA Institutional Self Study Guide is due in 2011. In January 2010 the committee will assist the athletic department with the Self Study Guide.

Mr. Linder stated that he was on a GSC subcommittee to try to reduce expenses within athletics. Some ideas were from cutting back meal expenses to soccer and volleyball traveling together.

Mr. Baker made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.