

## 10/28/09 15:32 Athletic Committee Minutes

Attendees: Steve Nelson, Ed Morgan, Barb Erickson, Dr. Maria Cuzzo, Dr. Jennifer Christensen, Lynne Dadrick, and Amos Tarfa

Missing Jeff Engstrom, John Wojcheiewski

Meeting called to order at: 3:35

First Athletic committee Meeting of the year.

Introductions: Steve Nelson: Athletic Director, Barb Erickson, Registrar, Jennifer Christianson, FAR, Maria Cuzzo Faculty Representative, Ed Morgan Head Baseball Coach and Admissions.

**First item**, annual academic report by Barb Erickson. Report compares fall term and spring term for student athletes vs. Student body.

2.992 overall athlete GPA average.

Student Athlete Retention rate ~88% average student body retention ~64%

Barb Erickson will be retiring, and has left instructions for retention report.

Discussion over discrepancy of GPA earnings between the different sports.  
Discussion of student athletes missing class for springtime sports such as softball and baseball.

Christensen suggesting podcasting of classes and D2L options so athletes can keep up with class content.

Cuzzo responding to difficulties: Technological difficulties, discouraging attendance of other students who have information available to them via online.

Morgan: Why is it hard to take attendance?

Erickson discussed official University of Wisconsin Superior attendance policies.

Nelson: wrapping up of support.

Cuzzo: Sharing of information to Faculty.

Erickson: GPA statistic is average; students do better than a 2.992

Nelson: look at the student body overall.

Erickson: Grade inflation average grade moving from C to B.

**Agenda Item 2:** Protocol of notifying faculty and instructors of absences.

Nelson: informing about absence this year in soccer.

Cuzzo: A competition with last minute roster changes. Inclusion of students not originally planned in sports roster. A professor was notified a day in advance by these students about having to depart for a tournament.

Nelson: coach's argument for retention. What should we do to notify faculty in advance of tournaments and games where students have to miss. For spring sports, athletics likes to give out roster and note about each player.

Morgan questioned if Midterms are required.

Erickson said it is mandatory only for classes below a 299 level.

Cuzzo: Mid-term confusing term.

Erickson: multiple methods should be used for notifying instructors/professors about student athlete's schedules. Notify by student digest, give students game schedule so athletes may give instructors schedule, and ensure that athletes also notify instructors several days in advance.

Cuzzo: Agrees with Erickson, however, not all faculty read the staff digest. Second, the practice of emailing a list of students to the faculty and staff email list generally will generate complaints. Personally, Cuzzo appreciates the spring students giving a game schedule at the beginning of the semester.

Morgan: In baseball, students give instructors schedules. He makes players call or email professors if they a game time changes and they will be missing the next day.

Nelson: Request that the following be noted in the minutes, **Instruct all coaches to make players give schedules of game times and departure schedules to professors so they know if a student should be in class or not.**

Erickson: Email academic staff, eliminate staff digest.

Cuzzo: You get pushed back if you send out email to everyone.

Suggestion: Email faculty and staff email list as opposed to "everyone" list.

Students need to keep in contact with professors about their games. Academic staff list, put it in staff digest, tell players to notify professors several days in advance of a game.

**Agenda Item 3:** Distribution of article by Nelson. Athletic Administration Magazine article on priority registration. Discussion for next meeting.

Erickson: Our school only does priority scheduling for those who need it.

Christiansen: Priority scheduling for athletes was done at the last school she worked at, which was comparative in size.

Morgan: Difficulties of scheduling practices because of class times.

Nelson: talking about practice times. Class and food conflicts.

Discussion of conflicts inherent in priority registration for athletes.

Discussion of spring sport missed times. Average of 5-7 days or so. Fall sport volleyball misses few classes because of games.

Cuzzo: Four day schedule suggestion possibly solving some game schedule conflicts.

Erickson: Four day class schedule would be fantastic.

Consensus between Nelson and Morgan that it would cut down missed class days.

Cuzzo: what is the alternative to this pushback.

Morgan: the majority of UWS athletes would not be here if they weren't in athletics.

Christiansen: what is the number of athletes of the University of Wisconsin Superior?

Nelson: ~300

Cuzzo: disconnect between athletics and faculty.

Nelson: It is partially due to a lack of staffing. Athletics depends on students for SID.

Erickson: Newspapers publishing less on UWS athletics. Second, people have moved away from sending things to departments. Things are not pushed on faculty as much. You have to search for it on the internet.

Cuzzo: distance of the relationship between faculty and athletics.

Nelson: Faculty representative for teams as a method for developing faculty relations with athletes. Athletics wants to create a relationship between the faculty on campus and athletics.

Morgan: Is it the over-arching culture of campus? Is game attendance by faculty the same for music and theatre events?

Nelson: It is not a five-year thing; this is a culture that has been around for a long time.

Erickson: back in the 60's there was a different culture. More stuff kept student body on campus. She had the suggestion of a class that requires students to attend events.

Discussion of: are there enough events on campus.

Discussion of pride on campus. Reframe in context of community. Pride loaded term. Overall image of campus

**Agenda Item 4:** Discussion of progress reports. Item moved to next meeting. Faculty doesn't always sign the form. Progress report flags students who are struggling so they can be helped. Faculty does not always fill out the form. Deadrick tells students to do an honest self reflection on their coursework.

Baseball has study table. Players below a 3.0 GPA are required to go to a 3-hour study session. Discussion of how most students do not know where they are at for midterm grades. Coaches have the privilege of viewing grades. Ed Morgan said he had a 50/50 success rate with method of progress reports for his player.

Discussion of how athletes have a different building. Christiansen proposing to put up information concerning women athletes.

Nelson expressed a strong maybe for administrative support of priority of scheduling. Erickson will complete survey of UW-System schools and COPLAC schools registrars to see how many use priority registering. Christiansen will be accessing her old schools priority registration set-up information.

Next meeting December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at: 4:58