

Senate Athletic Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Valasek Family Club conference room

January 30, 2024

Members in Attendance: Mike Epitropoulos, Chair; Blair Ford, Donna Nativio, Sue Wesmiller, Katelyn Allison, Laurel Roberts, Juan Manfredi, Chris Hoppe, Chris Bonneau, E.J. Borghetti, Dallas Jackson, Celeste Welsh, Amy Bowser, Richard Debski, Ed Horn, Betsy Nagle.

- I. Meeting called to order by Mike E who welcomed everyone and asked for introductions. Thanked Blair Ford and those that helped to arrange December meeting and game, and those who assisted with last meeting.

Introduced hometown friend and Pitt Executive Associate Athletic Director for Strategic Communications, E.J. Borghetti, and Director of Media Operations and Community Engagement, Celeste Welsh, along with Dallas Jackson, Coordinator, Student-Athlete Engagement.

- II. E.J Borghetti presentation

In line with the theme of Athletics and Community, E.J. Borghetti shared with us his personal trajectory as a lifelong and generations-long Pitt student-alumnus-professional. E.J. shared both the formal and personal / informal aspects of his life inside of Pitt Athletics and the links to the broader community.

E.J. culminated his presentation with an enchanting PowerPoint presentation of little-known, yet institutionally-valuable achievements of Pitt football. These, too, provided real-world links to community and institutional memory.

Mike E. emphasized that many such stories exist at Pitt and serve as examples of successful recruitment of students, faculty and staff. Moreover, these links to the broader community segued into the second presentation.

- III. Next, Dallas Jackson and Celeste Welsh, took the stage to present on Pitt Student-Athletes' outstanding record of Community Service. Dallas's PowerPoint presentation highlighted the various Pitt sports teams' community service partners and hours spent by each team, respectively. Celeste capped the presentation linking athletics to community and community service, in particular, by sharing her story of how A.D. Heather Lyke fostered the environment for this aspect of collegiate athletics community service.
- IV. The meeting concluded by announcing an email that would be circulated with details of the February SARC meeting.