

Senate Athletics Committee Meeting
February 19th, 2010

Members:	Present	
	X	Timothy Averch
	X	David Brienza
	X	Toby Chapman
	X	Jean Ann Croft
	X	Lou Fabian, Chair
	X	Donna Nativio
		Jamie Pardini
	X	Patrick Smolinski
	X	Dennis Swanson
Staff Association		
Member:	X	Carol Hodgkiss
Pro-Tem Members:	X	Dan Bartholomae
		Tony Eichelberger
	X	Nat Hershey
		Jay Irrgang, Vice Chair
	X	Don Martin
		Kevin McLaughlin
	X	Ken Metz
	X	Leonard Plotnicov
		Donna Sanft
Chancellor's Liaison		
Appointments:		Susan Albrecht
		Robert Pack
		Steve Pederson
Senate Liaison		
Appointments:		Michael Pinsky
		Lisa Bernardo
		Lori Molinaro
Student Members:		
	X	Rosey Natale
		Carol Haines
		Emily Thatch

Chair Lou Fabian called the meeting to order and requested the approval of the December 17, 2009 meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Lou then introduced Director of Life Skills Penny Semaia to present on the Panther Game Plan program and the Scholar-Athlete Breakfast

Scholar Athlete Breakfast and Panther Game Plan Update

Penny introduced the Panther Game Plan Life Skills Program and explained that its mission is to prepare student-athletes for success while in college and after college, utilizing academic, athletic and community resources. In reviewing the Scholar-Athlete Breakfast, Penny noted that 254 student-athletes had achieved “scholar athlete” status in 2009, achieving a term grade point average of 3.0 or above, 12 student-athletes received a term grade point average of 4.0, 118 student-athletes were recognized as BIG EAST Conference academic all-stars, and Meagan Dooley was recognized as the BIG EAST Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Penny also noted that this is the third consecutive year that the University of Pittsburgh has earned one of the major BIG EAST academic individual awards.

In reviewing community service highlights, Penny noted in the Fall term Pitt student-athletes contributed over 1,600 hours of community service to such community initiatives as Coach Dixon’s Time-Out, Project Bundle-Up, Children’s Hospital, Bloomfield Community Parade, and Panther PAWS.

In response to questions, Penny noted that scholar-athlete criteria is based upon term GPAs from the most recent Fall and Spring terms (i.e. Spring 2009 and Fall 2009). Additionally, Penny noted that the Panther Game Plan is beginning to compile more comprehensive data on post-graduate work (i.e. school and career placement) of Pitt student-athletes.

Lou then introduced Dan Bartholomae, Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance, to present on the 2009 release of Graduation Rates.

NCAA Graduation Rates:

Dan explained the definition and application of the Federal Graduation Rate and the NCAA Graduation Success Rate, noting that in many cases, University of Pittsburgh students and student-athletes have set institutional records, and the trends have been positive and moving upward. Additionally, the gap in the rates between students and student-athletes has been progressively closing over the past four years.

Dan first explained the Federal Graduation Rate, noting that any student-athlete who enters as a freshman on athletics aid is counted in the cohort. Students must graduate within six years of their entering class in order to count as a graduate. Any student who does not graduate from the University of Pittsburgh (including those who transfer out or pursue professional opportunities prior to graduation) counts as a non-graduate.

Dan then addressed the NCAA’s Graduation Success Rate, noting that the cohorts are determined similarly to the Federal Rate, except that students who leave the University of Pittsburgh while academically eligible as athletes are excluded. Additionally, students who enter on athletics aid mid-year, or who transfer to the University on athletics aid are also counted in the cohort. Finally, Dan noted that there is no such rate for the overall student body, and that the data is reported as a four year rolling average format.

Dan then reviewed the graduation rate data specific to the student and student-athlete body as a whole, as well as team data. Dan also reviewed the trends in such data over the past four years, noting an increasing trend in almost all cases.

Lou Fabian then moved the meeting into an executive session.

Lou Fabian adjourned the meeting.