

**Senate Athletics Committee Meeting**  
**January 31, 2014**

***Elected Members:***

***Present***

X	Nancy Burkoff
X	Toby Chapman
X	Nancy Glynn
	Susanne Gollin
X	Jay Irrgang (Co-Chair)
X	Kevin McLaughlin (Co-Chair)
	Elizabeth (Betsy) Nagle
X	Leonard Plotnicov
	Carma Sprowls-Repcheck

***Student Representatives:***

Michelle Donato  
Gordon Louderback  
Martha Merrill

***Staff Association  
Member:***

X	Barbara Mowery
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***Pro-Tem Members:***

X	Timothy Averch
X	Dan Bartholomae
X	Dave Brienza
	Tony Eichelberger
X	Lou Fabian
	Jeanann Croft Haas
	Nathan Hershey
	Don Martin
	Ken Metz
	Donna Nativio
X	Donna Sanft
X	Zac Saunders
	Patrick Smolinski

***Chancellor's Liaison  
Appointments:***

X Susan Albrecht  
David DeJong  
Steve Pederson

***Senate Liaison  
Appointments:***

Michael Spring  
Lori Molinaro

Jay Irrgang called the meeting to order and began the meeting by welcoming everyone. Irrgang requested the approval of the November 18, 2013 minutes, which were unanimously approved. Irrgang briefly reviewed the agenda then introduced senior Pitt student-athletes, Maria Nicholas (women's volleyball student-athlete and SAAC operations coordinator) and John Cordier (men's soccer student-athlete and SAAC president).

**Pitt Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)**

Maria Nicholas and John Cordier started their comments by thanking the committee for the opportunity to present on the student-athlete advisory committee and its work. Nicholas explained the functions of the committee and then provided an overview of the mission. Nicholas noted that the mission of the committee is to: 1) Provide a reliable contact and liaison between the Athletic Department and the varsity athletics teams that represent the University of Pittsburgh; 2) Bring the opinions and concerns of the student-athletes to the attention of the athletic director and members of the athletic department administration; 3) Represent the University of Pittsburgh varsity athletic programs in the camps and community; and 4) Develop a sense of pride and unity between all members of all Pitt teams. In expounding upon that, Nicholas also noted the goals of the committee and then shared with the group a personal experience that made a positive impact on her development and growth as a Pitt student-athlete. Nicholas also noted the strong impact athletics and her Pitt experience has had on her overall development as a person. Nicholas then introduced John Cordier.

In outlining his comments, John Cordier shared with the group some of the items that have been discussed at the monthly SAAC meetings and how members are engaged in the affairs of Pitt Athletics. Cordier also noted the accomplishments of the committee this past year which included but were not limited to countless community service events and programs through the Cathy & John Pelusi Family Life Skills Program. Cordier concluded by explaining to the group the ACC collaboration and the involvement of the University (Provost Office) beyond athletics.

Irrgang and the committee thanked the student-athletes for their presentation and then introduced Donna Sanft, Executive Associate Athletic Director.

## **ACC/National Awards and the Athletic Department Mentoring Program**

Donna Sanft started her comments by providing the group with an overview of the new award mentors (pilot) program. In explaining this new initiative, Sanft noted that the program was established to promote the attainment of ACC and national awards for Pitt student-athletes. Sanft outlined the program and discussed some of the details in planning this initiative. In explaining the program, Sanft noted the collaboration with the Academic Support Services for Student-Athletes Unit, Pitt Coaches, Pitt Administrators, ACC Staff and the University Honors College Staff. Sanft noted that selected Athletic Department Staff serve as mentors to more than 60 student-athletes in the new pilot program. Sanft discussed the current progress which included: 3 nominees for ACC Futures Internships, all three selected as finalists; 3 nominees for the ACC Postgraduate Scholarships; 2 nominees for the Walter Byers Postgraduate Scholarship; 1 nominee for the Jim McKay Postgraduate Scholarship; 1 nominee for the NCAA Fall Sport Postgraduate Scholarship; and 4 nominees for the ACC Fall Sport Scholar Athlete of the Year. Sanft concluded that while the program continues to grow and develop, the Athletic Department Staff will identify (new) potential candidates for the program and find ways to enhance the effectiveness of the program. David DeJong and other faculty commended Donna Sanft and Steve Pederson for this new initiative and noted the hard work in organizing this program.

Irrgang thanked Sanft for her presentation, reviewed the agenda for February's meeting and adjourned the meeting.