

Senate Athletics Committee Meeting
October 21, 2014

Elected Members:

Present

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

Student Representatives:

Michelle Donato
Gordon Louderback
Martha Merrill

***Staff Association
Member:***

Barbara Mowery

Pro-Tem Members:

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

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

X	Susan Albrecht
	David DeJong
X	Steve Pederson

***Senate Liaison
Appointments:***

X	Susan Skledar
	Michael Spring
	Lori Molinaro

Jay Irrgang called the meeting to order and began the meeting by welcoming everyone. Irrgang requested the approval of the September 23, 2014 minutes, which were unanimously approved. Irrgang briefly reviewed the agenda and introduced Steve Pederson.

Update From The Athletic Director

Steve Pederson started his comments by providing the committee an update on the affairs of the athletic department. Pederson discussed the early progress of the fall sports that are currently in season and stated that they were all off to a good start. Pederson noted the women's volleyball team, cross country teams, and football program were off to a very good start. Pederson also noted his optimism for the women's soccer program and the outstanding level of competition in the ACC.

Pederson discussed the importance of recruiting in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) and the opportunities that were available to Pitt in light of our affiliation with the ACC. Pederson shared with the group some information related to a recent ACC meeting and the agenda items to be discussed in the spring. Pederson stated that all fifteen institutions in the ACC want to do the right things and the conference is stronger than ever academically. Pederson briefly discussed the autonomy concept involving the Power 5 Conferences and explained the ACC approach in regards to future legislation and action. Pederson also noted the cost of attendance and stipend concept that will be considered and discussed by the membership at the January NCAA convention.

Pederson shared with the group Pitt's commitment to student-athlete well-being and health, and noted the new nutrition station initiative that was implemented by the athletic department in early September 2014. Pederson briefly discussed the recent NCAA lawsuits and noted the administration is tracking these cases closely. Pederson noted that the athletic department will stay focused to its core mission and guiding principles. Pederson stated that he is excited about where Pitt is headed and thanked the committee for their work and support of Pitt student-athletes.

Overview – The Role of the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR)

Dr. Susan Albrecht started her comments by providing the group an overview of her role as faculty athletics representative at the University of Pittsburgh. Albrecht provided some background information and provided an overview of her role as FAR from three different perspectives: 1) Pitt; 2) ACC; and 3) NCAA. Albrecht noted that the FAR at Pitt is appointed by the Chancellor and that the individual should be a tenured faculty member. Albrecht discussed the importance of understanding the mission of the University and the athletic department. Albrecht also noted that the FAR was empowered by the Chancellor to ensure student-athlete welfare and academic integrity. Albrecht reviewed with the group her responsibilities within Pitt, ACC and NCAA. Finally, Albrecht noted that the FARs in the ACC are very engaged in NCAA legislation and that each FAR is the voting delegate for their institution.

Irrgang thanked Albrecht and Pederson for their presentations and adjourned the meeting.