

**Senate Athletics Committee Meeting
February 13, 2009**

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

Irene Frieze attended the meeting in place of Lisa Bernardo as a Senate Liaison Appointment. Jen Tuscano, Academic Coordinator for Student-Athletes, was also in attendance.

Lou Fabian welcomed everyone in attendance and introduced new student representative Max Greenwald. Each committee member introduced themselves and their department. Lou then introduced Jen Tuscano to present on the Academic Support Services for Student-Athletes area and the tutoring program.

Jen Tuscano presented the committee with an overview of the Academic Support Services for Student-Athletes (ASSSA) area, noting that their mission is: Designed to assist student-athlete with reaching their fullest academic and personal development; Committed to promoting both academic and athletic achievement while upholding the academic integrity of the institution; Working closely with coaches and faculty to help SA's balance the demands of their academic responsibilities and participation in athletics. Jen noted that the primary functions of the ASSSA staff are Academic Support; Career Counseling; Tutoring Program; and Study Skills. Jen also reviewed the staffing of the ASSSA area, and explained the responsibilities and assigned sport oversight for each staff member. Jen then gave an in-depth review of the tutoring program, explaining when and why a student-athlete will meet with a tutor and the process involved in securing and administering tutoring sessions. Jen noted that the majority of tutors are graduate students, with some undergraduate tutor involvement and that all tutoring takes place within the ASSSA facility. In response to questions, Jen noted that tutors are paid hourly. Jen also noted that even though a student may do very well academically, they often take advantage of the tutoring resource.

Some committee members noted that while the ASSSA staff is proactive in seeking progress reports from faculty, they may be being sent too early in the term. The committee asked how progress toward degree requirements are monitored. Jen note that ASSSA counselors monitor degree requirements, and that the appropriate dean's office certifies progress toward degree for eligibility purposes. In response to questions, Jen noted that student-athletes may not miss class for practice and that scheduling is executed accordingly. Jen also noted that similar academic support services are available for all students, and that student-athletes do not receive preferential early registration. The committee noted that the excellent work of ASSSA has resulted in early graduation for several student-athletes, and it was also noted that even if a student-athletes graduates early, they still must be registered full-time in a second degree program or graduate program to compete athletically.

Steve Pederson added that one of the key components of the ASSSA program is that it's reporting line falls outside of athletics and reports to the Office of the Provost. This allows for an excellent working relationship with athletics, but reinforces both the ASSSA and athletic department's commitment to academic integrity. Additionally, Steve noted that academic integrity policies and procedures are reviewed on a yearly basis by ASSSA and the Athletic Director. Steve also noted the culture on our athletics teams supports academics as a primary priority, and that our coaches are committed to this culture.

Dan Bartholomae noted that Conor Lee had been selected as the BIG EAST Conference's football scholar-athlete of the year and would receive a \$4,000 scholarship towards his

graduate study in the Katz Graduate School of Business. Additionally, Jonathan Buchanan of the swimming team and Kristy Borza of the tennis team were Pitt's institutional BIG EAST scholar-athletes of the year and would receive a \$2500 scholarship towards graduate study.

Lou then sought approval of the 12-12 minutes, which were unanimously approved. Lou also noted that in addition to the Senate Committee, there were other committees that provide athletic oversight and that he would discuss these committees at a later meeting date.

The meeting was adjourned.