

Senate Athletics Committee Meeting
February 25th, 2011

Members:	Present	
		David Brienza
		Toby Chapman
		Jean Ann Croft Haas
	X	Lou Fabian, Chair
	X	Donna Nativio
	X	Jamie Pardini
	X	Patrick Smolinski
		Dennis Swanson
	X	Steven Wendell
Staff Association		
Member:		Libby Hilf
Pro-Tem Members:	X	Timothy Averch
	X	Dan Bartholomae
		Tony Eichelberger
		Nat Hershey
	X	Jay Irrgang, Vice Chair
		Don Martin
		Kevin McLaughlin
		Ken Metz
	X	Leonard Plotnicov
	X	Donna Sanft
Chancellor's Liaison		
Appointments:		Susan Albrecht
		David DeJong
		Steve Pederson
Senate Liaison		
Appointments:		Michael Pinsky
		Lori Molinaro
Student Members:		Michelle Donato
		Emily Thach

Penny Semaia, Assistant Athletic Director for Student Life was also in attendance.

Lou Fabian called the meeting to order and requested approval of the December 10th meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved.

Mr. Fabian then turned the meeting over to Penny Semaia to review highlights from the Scholar-Athlete Breakfast and the 2010-11 Panther Game Plan.

Scholar Athlete Breakfast and Panther Game Plan Update

In reviewing the Scholar-Athlete Breakfast, Penny noted that 290 student-athletes had achieved “scholar athlete” status in 2010, achieving a term grade point average of 3.0 or above, 21 student-athletes received a term grade point average of 4.0, 128 student-athletes were recognized as BIG EAST Conference academic all-stars.

Penny then 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. Penny also noted that Austin Ransom, a former football student-athlete, had been hired over the summer as the Life Skills Coordinator, replacing Charles Small, who had accepted a position with Academic Support Services for Student-Athletes.

In reviewing recent Panther Game Plan initiatives, Penny explained the Battle of the Panthers initiative, which encourages healthy competition amongst our athletes in completing life skills projects; the Professional Presence program; Sports Nutrition programs and the COACH Leadership program for staff and student-athletes.

In response to questions, Penny noted that our program compares as one of the top life skills programs nationally thanks to the financial and staff support the program has received from the athletic department, the NCAA student-athlete opportunity fund and through endowments.

Lou then introduced Dan Bartholomae, Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance, to present on the 2010 release of Graduation Rates.

NCAA Graduation Rates:

Dan explained the definition and application of the Federal Graduation Rate and the NCAA Graduation Success Rate.

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.

Hearing no new business, Lou Fabian adjourned the meeting.

**Please note that subsequent to the conclusion of this meeting, the committee determined that their March 22nd meeting would consist of a brief tour of the Duratz Athletic Football Complex prior to attendance at Spring Football practice that same date.