

Athletic Advisory Committee

to the

University Senate

Minutes – December 2, 2009

Members Present:

Daniel T. Regan, Chair; Vince Nicastro, Lynn Tighe, Robert Langran, Hank Nichols, Kathleen Moore, Fr. John Stack, OSA, Jim Emig, Mary Quilter,

Absent (Notified in Advance): Rich Freccia, Seth Wlidden

Absent: Daniel Gelwicks, Edward Mentry, John Marrah, Ryan Conway

Meeting opened by the Chair Regan and members introduced.

Nomination of officers (Chair and Secretary) were opened by acting chair Regan.

Jim Emig nominated Daniel Regan for the office of Chair of the Committee and Mary Quilter for the office of Secretary of the Committee. Hank Nichols seconded the nominations and the election of the officers was unanimous.

Vince Nicastro presented the report of the Athletic Director.

- Copies of the “Department of Athletics 2008-09 Annual Report” were distributed.
- GSR (Graduation Success Rate) for Villanova Athletes is 95% and among the elite in the country.
 - Jim Emig noted that the new process regarding the program transfers works well
- Andy Talley, Head Football Coach has been recognized nationally for his accomplishments as a coach and also recognized for his community service for his organizing of the Bone Marrow Transplant project.
 - As a result of this screening, Villanova football player Matt Szczur was determined to be a match for a one year old girl and will go through the bone marrow transplant procedure at the end of the Fall semester.
- The football team is in the playoffs for the national championship.
- Villanova women's cross country head coach Gina Procaccio was named women's Division I National Cross Country Coach of the Year

- The Villanova University women's cross country team has won the 2009 NCAA National Championship.
-
- The Leadership Institute is in the third year of operation. All team captains and other team leaders participate in this program, which integrates both theoretical and practical components of leadership.
- About a dozen student-athletes participate in a week-long service trip which is scheduled in the Spring when the largest number of athletes are able to attend. The trip took them to Charleston, SC last Spring.
- The business of athletics has been good during the past year
 - Overall departmental revenues reached an all time high
 - The Annual Fund is up 10% - in a very challenging climate
- The Athletics Master Plan has been revised and is in line with the Strategic Plan. A few examples of projects on the list (not exhaustive):
 - Resurface the stadium
 - Renovate various team locker rooms
 - Renovate or relocate the boat house
 - Renovate West Campus athletic fields with soccer friendly surface
 - Reconstruct the Pike field for field hockey
- The staff of the Athletic Department participates in a service project during Fall and Spring breaks. They have renovated, painted, cleaned, cleared debris, planted, and done maintenance at several sites in the Philadelphia area including St. Rita's Parish, St. Agatha-St. James Soup Kitchen, St. Augustine Church, Kensington house, and other venues.

The complete report of the Athletic Director can be found on the website:

[Http://www.villanova.com/ot/annual-reports.html](http://www.villanova.com/ot/annual-reports.html)

Chair Regan brought to the committee questions from two faculty members. The faculty questioned the scheduling of the men's basketball tournament in Puerto Rico during the last full week of classes during the Fall semester. This was problematic for the four freshmen who are on the team who for a MWF schedule missed three critical class days.

AD Nicastro advised that these tournaments are scheduled three or four years in advance and are attractive to top-level programs like ours due to locales, national TV, etc. The good news is the next two tournaments we have committed to do not have the same travel requirements.

- Father Stack suggested that if this situation arises again, that tutors accompany the team.
- Vince would support having academic support for future trips when students would miss an inordinate number of classes. This is something we already do from time to time.

Vince advised that ESPN requires definite commitments to these tournaments sometimes three years in advance. Vince will confer with Bob Steitz regarding the scheduling and will make a concerted effort to control the scheduling for that week.

- Dr. Langran asked if other teams were affected by tournament scheduling.
- AD Nicastro noted that rarely are other teams in this position.

New Business:

Dr. Langran suggested that someone contact ESPN and or NCAA about the spotlighting of losing players after games. The student athletes on the losing team are devastated enough without having to appear on camera. He felt it was a barbaric custom and that the focus should be on the winning coaches.

Dr. Nichols noted that this was all TV business and probably would not be changed.

Dr. Nichols stated that “kudos should go the Athletic Advisory Committee for doing an excellent job.”

AD Nicastro stated that the University’s licensing agreement with Russell Athletics has not been renewed. The process was brought to the AD through as student initiative – United Students Against Sweat Shops. The Russell factory in Honduras was cited for violation of workers’ rights. All Russell sportswear has been removed from the University Shop and the University contract with Russell ended July 1, 2009. Dr. Regan noted that Nike had the same problems a few years ago and that their problems have been resolved in a positive way.

A meeting will be scheduled in late February,2010 at 4PM. At that meeting, George Kolb, Asst VP for Athletics Development will make a presentation on the athletics fundraising plan.

Submitted by

Mary C. Quilter
Secretary