

**Annual Report of the Athletic Advisory Committee to the
University Senate 2008-2009
Presented by Mrs. Mary Quilter**

Vince Nicastro presented the following items to the Committee.

New Programs in Athletics:

- Service Trip for Student-Athletes
Department conducted first annual overnight/weeklong service trip for student-athletes in May 2008. This was a Habitat for Humanity project and was organized in collaboration with Campus Ministry.
- Promoting Study Abroad Program for Student-Athletes
Study Abroad programs are very difficult because of the schedule of practices and games for most student athletes. However, we have sponsored some foreign tours for our teams and will attempt to broaden those types of opportunities across more teams in the future.
- Captain's Leadership Institute
Athletics coordinate our first series of seminars to help team leaders develop their leadership knowledge and skills. Program was designed in collaboration with Dr. Ray Heitzmann and facilitated by members of the senior management team in Athletics. Included case studies, guest lectures, etc.

Strategic Plan for Athletics

A refinement of the Athletics Strategic Plan has been in process as part of the overall university strategic plan. Recommendations to the President are tentatively scheduled to be forwarded in Spring 2009.

Competitive Highlights:

The Women's Cross Country Team placed 6th in the nation at the 2008 NCAA Championship

The Football team advanced to the quarterfinals of the FCS Playoffs and finished 10-3.

The Big East Commissioner (Mike Tranghese) is retiring on July 1, 2009 and it is expected that his replacement will be John Marinatto. John is currently the Sr. Association Commissioner of the Big East.

NCAA has formed an ad hoc committee (Academic Enhancement Group) to address the academic issues surrounding men's basketball nationally. Some of the proposed items include mandatory summer school, additional life/study skills programming, and potential alterations to the length of the basketball season.

The Big East will add Men's Lacrosse as a conference sport in 2010.

The crew teams are still sharing the boat house the Whitemarsh Boat Club. Villanova University will host the 2009 NCAA Rowing Championships to be held on the Cooper River in Camden NJ

The Athletic Department staff schedules two service days in the Fall semester and the coaches and staff work on projects. This year they returned to St. Rita's Parish in Philadelphia to clean, paint, weed, dust, wash; pick up trash, and any other tasks needed. In the past, they have provided service at St. Augustine's Church, Philadelphia, St. Agatha-St. James Soup Kitchen, and rehabbed houses on Lehigh Avenue and Colorado Street in Philadelphia.

There were no issues sent to the Committee for consideration at this meeting. The committee will meet again during the Spring Semester.

Daniel T. Regan, Chair
Mary C. Quilter, Secretary