

The George Washington University

Faculty Senate Committee on

Athletics and Recreation

Friday April 7, 2017

Annual Report

The Athletics and Recreation committee met once during the session 2016/2017 and had follow-up email communication.

During the October meeting, the following topics were covered.

- 1) The status of Men's basketball following the firing of head coach Mike Lonergan. Tanya Vogel, Senior Associate Athletics Director, met with the committee to answer questions. The main concern revolved around the basketball student-athletes and how they were adjusting to the personnel changes. The way the student-athletes learned of the firing was also of concern as the media reported before the student-athletes were told. Fortunately the student-athletes had a good relationship with Coach Maurice Joseph so the transition was smooth.
- 2) Things faculty can do to assist the Athletic Department. The Committee discussed ways faculty can be of assistance to the athletic department such as identifying potential tutors for the Office of Educational Support Services and completing the mid-semester reviews for student-athletes. Currently only 50% of faculty respond to the mid-semester reviews. There was also a discussion of scheduling classes more accommodating to students-athletes but determined that our student-athletes are in degrees across campus and not clustered in certain degrees like other universities thus this would not be feasible.
- 3) Recreation facilities at the Virginia Science & Technology Campus. The nursing faculty are extremely concerned and disappointed with the lack of recreational facilities at the Loudoun campus. Currently there is one small room with very limited, old and dangerous equipment. Following the meeting the Chair of the Committee made attempts to follow-up on the possibility of improving fitness/recreational facilities with a lack of response.

Outside of the Committee meeting, the Chair of the Committee served on the Student First Task Force which explored the:

1. Awarding and Retention of Scholarships
2. Promotion and Training of Student Athletes in Terms of Media and Branding
3. Effectiveness and Integrity of Student Athlete Feedback and Reporting Procedures

The results of this task force were shared with the full committee and opened for discussion.

Communication was also shared with the Committee regarding incoming President LeBlanc's response to a question regarding his feeling toward athletics. He stated "Athletics can serve as a center of excellence at a university". The committee was also made aware that the Athletic Budget is

being cut 5% each year for the next 5 years thus the Athletic Department needs to figure out a way to continue to serve the same number of student-athletes and teams with less money. Finally, information was shared on the new contract signed with Coach Joseph.

Members of the Athletics and Recreation Committee, Faculty Senate year 2016/2017

Professors:

Lisa Delpy Neirotti, GWSB (Chair)

Mary Barron, SMHS

Ashley Darcy-Mahoney, SON

Eric Cline, CCAS

Patrick McHugh, GWSB

Rebecca Mance (SON)

Toni Marsh, CPS

Beverly Westerman, SMHS

Gretchen Wiersma, SON

Heather Young, SMHS

Administration/Non-Voting/Ex Officio:

Alexander Downes, ESIA; Ann Brown, Gelman; Andre Julien, Athletics; Craig Linebaugh, CCAS