



Faculty Senate

Athletics and Recreation Committee 2023-2024 Interim Report

The Athletics and Recreation Committee convened in October. Athletics Director Tanya Vogel led a discussion on the transition to the new Revolutionaries moniker and the broader goals of the Athletics department. The committee discussed ways for both faculty and the athletics department to support the academic success of student athletes. NCAA representative Bev Westerman highlighted the academic achievement of some of the student athletes and discussed scholarship opportunities. The committee will plan to meet again in the Spring semester to discuss GW recreational and intramural sports.

Meeting time: October 30, 2023 at 11AM.

Format: Online Zoom meeting

Attendance:

Matthew Kay (co-Chair)

Beverly Westerman

Kurt Johnson

Anita Singh

Ashley Darcy Mahoney

Beth Tuckwiller

Betsy Choma

Cara Padovano

Dhinu Jayaseelan

Heather Young

Karen McDonnell

Kyle Levers

Linda Cassar

Mayse Yousif

Robert Baker

Scott Kieff

Tanya Vogel

Toni Marsh

1 - Welcome and introductions

2- Quick review of minutes of last meeting

Minutes approved by unanimous consent.

3- Engage with the Athletics department on the launch of the new moniker

Discussion led by Tanya Vogel.

Multi-year decision, involvement of board of trustees, coaches, students.

The change was anticipated several years ago.

The transition has been relatively seamless. Some challenges with timeframe. Some uniforms for the fall teams do not have Revolutionaries. Winter teams have the new logo.

“Revs” is a trademark owned by the New England Revolutionaries, we will never see just “Revs” on apparel or materials.

Softball and baseball field signs are in process of being updated.

Majority of signage at Smith Center has been updated.

Keep an eye out for any signs that have not been updated.

Discussions and exercises with athletes about what “Revolutionaries” means. How is it defined, what is the identity of a Revolutionary?

200 students attended a recent workshop on Revolutionary “identity”.

What can faculty do to help? Students are doing very well in classroom, average GPA 3.44, 82% with 3.0 or above. 48 students had a 4.0. Graduation success rate is higher than national average by 4 percentage points.

It helps Tanya to know how people feel about our athletes. Sometimes athlete student “reputation” is amplified, for better or for worse. As we hear things, let Tanya know so that this amplification can be addressed. Important to tell the “great” academic story about GW student athletes. There are great stories to tell, Tanya would like to tell those stories.

Athletics commencement is a great event, for students who compete that weekend.

4- Discuss with the Athletics department on its broader goals

Discussion led by Tanya Vogel.

Recreational sports are no longer under the Athletics department.

GW competes in Division 1, with other often larger universities.

We have 20 Varsity programs. Goal is to be as competitive as possible in the Atlantic 10. Doing very well in swimming and diving competitions (male and female teams) and women’s rowing.

Female student athletes are having great success.

Working to better support both male and female teams.

Academic goals were met with flying colors.

Many improvements in many sports this year.

Want to continue to elevate competitiveness of basketball teams.

Transfer portal has allowed for ease of moment of athletes to transfer to other universities. Pay-for-play and play-for-enrollment issues were discussed. Used to lure students from one school to the next.

Athletics Dept has the goal of representing the GW community at large, which means recruitment from diverse groups and locations. Community service and community engagement is important. Smith Center is being used for more events and large on-campus events. This displaces team sports. This is a challenge. Goal is to build a practice facility in the Smith Center to address this challenge. Plan is to put it in the space where the pool is, and it is not ideal for the swimming and diving programs. Plan is to enclose the pool at the Mnt Vernon campus, which would be a major asset to water sports.

GW is trying to catch up with A10 peers with better practice facilities.

5- Updates from Lerner Health and Wellness Center

None b/c Vice Provost and Dean Colette Coleman was not available to attend the meeting.

6- NCAA update

Discussion led by Beverly Westerman.

We have great academics so many aspects look great.

263 GW athletes qualified for Atlantic 10 honor roll.

All other academic success mentioned above by Tanya apply to Bev's report.

GW athlete Justin Grady received the Atlantic 10 postgrad scholarship.

Scholarships earmarked to GW athletes, try to help with opportunities available to students.

7 - New business

Regarding the use of the shortened name "Rev" - letters and sounds associated with what English speakers treat as a "v" or a "b" can easily get confused. The same for many other languages and many other alphabets. Yet the abbreviated words "rev" and "reb" connote quite different meanings. This may unfortunately raise some challenges for this discussion about meaning and content.

Mayse Yousif discussed the @BehindGWSports Instagram account. This is the link with all the social media pages: <https://linktr.ee/BehindGWSports>

Description of the page: "@BehindGWSports is an Instagram account that focuses on bringing visibility to GW's athletics through athlete and student body interactions. It's an open space that connects students, alumni, and fans, and reminds them that the revolutionaries' spirit runs deep. It's a go-to source for everything related to GW athletics and the pulse of our campus."

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