



Faculty Senate

Standing Committee on Athletics & Recreation Interim Report AY 2024-2025

Co-Chairs: Jennifer Sacheck (SPH) and Peng Wei (SEAS)
FSEC Liaison: Scott Kieff (LAW)

Agenda and Minutes Summary– October 2, 2024, Hybrid Format

Attendance:

Jen Sacheck – co-Chair
Peng Wei – co-Chair
Michael Lipitz
Blake Morant
Mark Mermelstein
Danya Ellman
Karen McDonnell
Kurt Johnson
Cara Padova
Stephen Gray
Marc Spencer
Ashley Darcy-Mahoney
Patrick McHugh
John Traub
Elizabeth Choma
Syed Anwar
Kelsey Nelson

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Review of the minutes

Minutes approved by unanimous consent

3. Review of the Committee Description and Mission for new members (below)

4. Welcome and Update on GW Athletics (Michael Lipitz)

- a. Self introduction, background and career trajectory
- b. Vision: build a strong athletic program, and strengthen the campus community

- c. Strong academic performance from our student athletes, graduation rate 95% one of the highest in the country
 - d. GW basketball schedules will be released soon, currently working with television broadcast partners on the final details
 - e. Priority of this year at GW: university strategic planning, revenue generation such as tickets, fund raising, corporate partners, etc.,
 - f. Changing landscape in NCAA and student athletic programs: a lot of changes in student athletic programs nationwide and we need to plan for these changes; name, image and likeness of the student athletes and the revenue generated; team generated revenue (for us it's M/W basketball) can be shared back with student athletes; scholarship limitation has been removed, which sports should we invest.
 - g. Transfer portal: some sports allow play right away, some sports will have the transferred students sit for one year
 - h. Athletic facility planning master plan project to evaluate and plan for updating GW facilities, e.g. we don't have an indoor practice facility, our tennis courts are not very well conditioned
 - i. What faculty can do to help GW athletic programs and recreation programs? 1. Discussions on the changing NCAA landscape 2. Community building, show supports
 - j. Survey and investigate fan experience to come watch the game, deliver the exciting experience for the diverse audience
 - k. Study verified that admission and enrollment will increase from success of student athletic programs. Gain supports from different schools
 - l. A10 conference is one of the good conferences after power conferences and Big East
 - m. Michael invited the ARC committee to a "meet the men's basketball coach and team" event in October where committee members also attended a men's basketball practice
5. Welcome and Update on Campus Recreation and Wellness (Mark Mermelstein)
- a. Lerner's replanning process and facility updates
 - b. Fitness center has brand new flooring. The equipment has been in the process of updating
 - c. Sport club programs: 1,900 student athletes; implementation of concussion protocols
 - d. Intramural sports: be fun. Pop-up play, corn bag toss, Mario carts, 10/26 river horse race event, inflatable ponies, a lot of fun things in intramural
 - e. Group fitness: draw increasing numbers from last year; meditation sessions Tuesday and Friday;
 - f. Outdoor adventure: 70 students in 5 different trips
 - g. Faculty and graduate student in intramural? Will work on marketing and on-campus communications on this
 - h. Do we have data on faculty and staff memberships in Lerner? It shows the number is decreasing but we can work on marketing to show that the updated Lerner facility with \$39 monthly rate is a good option
 - i. Nursing students are not allowed to use Lerner, only the veteran students can use. Will look into that what resulted this decision and how to resolve it
6. NCAA Liaison – Faculty Athletics Representative (Jennifer Sacheck, SPH)
- Introduction and overview of role to date and engagement with athletics
7. Review of Charges
- ran out of on time, to discuss next meeting)
- For consideration:*

- (1) Assist with continuity with the Athletic Director leadership transition.
- (2) Explore access to athletic facilities at the Mount Vernon Campus for students residing there in order to improve the resident student experience.
- (3) Proactively engage with the strategic planning process as the framework is developed this year.

Ongoing charges:

- (1) Explore barriers to physical activity and sport access for the greater GW student body.
- (2) Elevating GW student athletes and their achievements and commitment to their sports more broadly across campus and within their home schools and colleges.

5. New Business /Next Meeting Jan 2025

Senate Standing Committee on Athletics & Recreation

Committee Description/Mission

In general terms, the Faculty Senate Committee on Athletics and Recreation has the role of maintaining the faculty's presence in the intercollegiate athletics and recreational programs. More specifically, the Committee has the following functions, namely:

1. to receive information from the Department of Athletics and Recreation about its programs and any issues which may affect GW athletics and recreation;
2. to serve as a forum for discussion and consultation regarding matters related to athletics and recreation;
3. via the NCAA representative, to be apprised of NCAA rules and their interpretation, as they may affect this institution; and
4. to recommend to the Faculty Senate changes in existing policies pertaining to athletics and recreation, and to develop new policies as appropriate, for consideration by the Faculty Senate.