

**The George Washington University  
Faculty Senate Committee on Athletics and Recreation  
Annual Report**

The Athletics and Recreation committee met once during the 2019/2020 session.

During the November meeting the following topics were covered.

1) The impact of the university-wide strategic planning process on Intercollegiate Athletics at GW: It is important for the Department of Athletics strategic plan to align with the overall university strategic plan. The last Department of Athletics strategic plan was completed in 2012. As President LeBlanc took office, Athletics was encouraged to defer work on a strategic plan until the university-wide plan was completed. Therefore, the Athletic Department plans to engage in a strategic planning process following the conclusion of the university's overall strategic plan.

2) What is the role of the Faculty Senate Committee on Athletics and Recreation? It is unclear what role, if any, the Faculty Senate Committee on Athletic and Recreation could or should have regarding the Department of Athletics upcoming strategic planning process. Should this committee coordinate with the Athletics Council? Here is the charge of the Faculty Senate Committee on Athletics and Recreation:

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.

3) Changes to the Department of Athletics organizational structure: The Division of Recreation no longer reports to the Athletic Director. Athletics and Recreation facilities are under the auspices of the Senior Associate Athletic Director for Health & Wellness, who reports to the VP of Student Affairs and Dean of Students.

4) Study abroad for intercollegiate athletes: While a large percentage of student athletes would like to participate in study abroad, there are significant barriers to widespread participation by student athletes. There are significant competition and training conflicts during the Fall and Spring semesters. In some sports, there are summer training activities on campus. In addition, GW does not provide athletic scholarships (aid) during study-abroad semesters, which is a

significant deterrence to participation by scholarship athletes. This policy is common among many other Division 1 programs. It would be important to benchmark GW with other A-10 schools regarding study abroad opportunities for student athletes, as well as gathering data on the actual percentage of student athletes studying abroad compared with the general student population. This type of data would be helpful in terms of understanding the current status, and if initiatives are put in place, how effective they have been in terms of advancing student athlete participation in study abroad.

The Department of Athletics is experimenting with various formats to accommodate athletes seeking study abroad opportunities. Last year, they worked with the study abroad office and the department of sociology to create a one-credit study abroad course that was scheduled to run in Spring/Summer 2020 to Vietnam. There is strong donor interest in supporting these types of study abroad experiences for student athletes, thus fundraising for these initiatives is promising.

Members of the committee seemed to agree that a multi-faceted approach with different options is perhaps the best way to expand study abroad options for student athletes. The Vietnam program is one model that if successful, could be expanded to other time periods, other abroad locations, and other disciplinary areas to better accommodate different sport schedules.

5) Future agenda items:

- a) Access to athletics and recreation facilities; what can be done to enhance access to facilities on all campuses?
- b) The college admissions scandal and GW athletics program responses and actions
- c) Name, image and likeness compensation for college athletes and implications for GW
- d) The impact of COVID-19 on GW athletics and the student athlete experience.

Members of the Athletics and Recreation Committee, Faculty Senate year 2019/2020

Patrick McHugh, GWSB (Chair)

Hugh Agnew, ESIA (Faculty Senate Executive Committee Liaison)

Robert Baker CCAS

Ashley Darcy-Mahoney SON

George Glass GW Student Association

Matthew Hess Staff)

Mark Hyman GWSB

Kurt Johnson SMHS

Andre Julien Athletics

Dave Milzman SMHS

Toni Marsh CPS

Beth Tuckwiller GSEHD

Tanya Vogel Athletics

Beverly Westerman, ex officio (NCAA Liaison)

Tanya Wetenhall CCAS