

*Senate Athletics Committee Meeting
December 17th, 2009*

Members:

Present

X	Timothy Averch
X	David Brienza
X	Toby Chapman
X	Jean Ann Croft
X	Lou Fabian, Chair
X	Donna Nativio
X	Jamie Pardini
X	Patrick Smolinski
X	Dennis Swanson

Staff Association

Member:

Carol Hodgkiss

Pro-Tem Members:

X	Dan Bartholomae
X	Tony Eichelberger
	Nat Hershey
X	Jay Irrgang, Vice Chair
X	Don Martin
	Kevin McLaughlin
X	Ken Metz
X	Leonard Plotnicov
X	Donna Sanft

Chancellor's Liaison

Appointments:

X	Susan Albrecht
	Robert Pack
X	Steve Pederson

Senate Liaison

Appointments:

Michael Pinsky
Lisa Bernardo
Lori Molinaro

Student Members:

	Rosey Natale
X	Carol Haines
X	Max Greenwald

Chair Lou Fabian called the meeting to order and introduced Athletic Director Steve Pederson, to give an end of term report for the Fall Semester.

Steve Pederson thanked the committee for their time and commitment to the athletic department, noting the unique relationship between the athletic department and the

institution as a whole. Steve specifically pointed to the trust and respect on both sides and stated that it would be difficult to build any long term success in athletics without the world class faculty we have here on campus.

Steve attributed much of the success of the fall semester to the student-athletes, noting that the type of students-athletes we have at Pitt come to Pitt realizing they will receive the resources to ensure that all of their goals can be achieved through their own effort.

These efforts are reflected in the school's academic progress rate and graduation rates, as both rates continue to climb as a result of the academic support services staff, coaching stability and the effort of our students. Steve also noted that football student-athletes are increasingly graduating in December, which affords them the opportunity to receive a degree and pursue professional athletic opportunities immediately after the fall term.

Steve reviewed some of the athletic highlights of the fall term, mentioning the success we had in football and the character of several members of our senior class, which was also Coach Wannstedt's first recruiting class. Volleyball achieved a second place finish in the BIG EAST in Coach Rens' second season with the team, and Steve pointed to great days ahead under Coach Rens' leadership. While the soccer teams struggled within the conference, the expectations will rise with the development of the Petersen Sports Complex, which will bring world class facilities in the sport of soccer.

Steve also noted the efforts of the athletic department staff in what was a productive and challenging fall semester. Specifically, the last two football games at Heinz Field were sold to capacity and brought an atmosphere as great as any institution in the country. Steve pointed to the efforts of the student section, which he categorized as being as great as any other student section in the country.

In discussing his excitement for the spring term, Steve noted that we will continue to work diligently as a staff and responsibly manage our budgets as we maximize our present resources.

In response to questions, Steve noted that a new track is a part of the current facility development plan and its construction is predicated on the completion of the first three facilities. No work can begin on the site until the teams currently using the site have moved into their new facilities, however the track construction phase will not be as long as the others as there is no site work necessary. Upon completion, the track will be sanctioned with the goal of hosting competitive meets.

Lou then turned the meeting over to Dan Bartholomae, who presented NCAA proposals 2009-79 A, B, C & D. Dan noted that the proposals intent was to address budgetary concerns brought on by "non-traditional" seasons in the sports of Cross Country, Soccer, Softball and Women's Volleyball. The proposals either sought to restrict transportation for such competition to ground transport only, or sought to eliminate non-traditional seasons altogether. Noting the importance of the non-traditional season in the athletic development of the athletes in these sports, the committee unanimously motioned to oppose the proposals.

Lou Fabian adjourned the meeting.