

Senate Athletics Committee Meeting
November 20, 2012

Elected Members:

Present

	Toby Chapman
X	Lou Fabian (Co-Chair)
X	Nancy Glynn
	Susanne Gollin
X	Kevin McLaughlin (Co-Chair)
X	Jamie Pardini
X	Leonard Plotnicov
X	Carma Sprowls-Repcheck
X	Steven Wendell

Student Representatives:

Michelle Donato
Gordon Louderback
Preston Thomas

***Staff Association
Member:***

X	Barbara Mowery
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Pro-Tem Members:

X	Timothy Averch
X	Dan Bartholomae
	Dave Brienza
X	Tony Eichelberger
	Jeanann Croft Haas
	Nathan Hershey
X	Jay Irrgang, Vice Chair
	Don Martin
X	Ken Metz
	Donna Nativio
	Donna Sanft
X	Zac Saunders
	Patrick Smolinski

***Chancellor's Liaison
Appointments:***

X	Susan Albrecht
	David DeJong
X	Steve Pederson

*Senate Liaison
Appointments:*

Thomas Smitherman
Lori Molinaro
Michael Pinsky

Lou Fabian called the meeting to order and requested the approval of the October 18th minutes, which were unanimously approved. Fabian briefly reviewed the agenda then introduced Jen Tuscano, Assistant Director of Academic Support Services for Student-Athletes. Fabian turned the meeting over to Tuscano to present on academic integrity and the Pitt Academic Support Service for Student-Athletes (ASSSA) unit.

Academic Integrity and ASSSA

Jen Tuscano began her comments by providing the group with an overview and some highlights of the ASSSA unit and staff. Tuscano discussed the unit's functions and also pointed out that the academic advisors in ASSSA are not the primary academic advisors for student-athletes. Tuscano noted that the primary advisors for student-athletes are in their respective schools or colleges (not athletics). Tuscano also explained to the group that ASSSA reports to the Provost's Office and not the athletic director. Tuscano also noted that this reporting arrangement is unique and that generally speaking, the academic support service for student-athletes unit at most institutions report to the athletic director.

Tuscano then reviewed the ethical standards and the academic integrity guidelines for student-athletes. Tuscano noted the rules education meetings that are conducted by the Compliance staff and the ASSSA staff. Tuscano also mentioned that the (academic integrity) policies and guidelines are listed in the student-athlete handbook and academic planner.

In reviewing the tutoring program, Tuscano explained the tutor qualifications and noted that all tutoring appointments are held in the Hilda Willis Academic Center in the Petersen Event Center. Tuscano discussed the monitoring procedures for tutors and explained that tutors are trained by the ASSSA staff on proper tutoring methods. Tuscano noted that the Compliance staff meets with the tutors annually to review the pertinent NCAA rules and regulations as it relates to tutors. Tuscano also pointed out that tutors must sign a compliance statement before meeting with any students and that tutoring is always monitored by a full-time staff member. Tuscano mentioned the rules education that is disseminated to the coaches and athletic staff members from the Compliance staff regarding the academic integrity guidelines. Tuscano also discussed the annual academic integrity meeting that includes the faculty athletic representative, athletic director, Compliance staff and ASSSA staff.

Tuscano reviewed the procedure for independent/directed studies involving our student-athletes and explained the faculty athletic representatives' involvement/oversight. Tuscano noted the University Internal Audit report from December, 2011 that revealed no significant findings, and that the processes and systems in the ASSSA unit were found to be reasonable and in compliance with University policy and procedures. Tuscano also noted that the report stated the ASSSA

control procedures were found to be very good and effectively implemented. In response to questions, Tuscano stated that about 65 percent of student-athletes utilize the tutoring services offered in ASSSA.

Fabian then introduced Steve Pederson. Pederson provided the group with a brief update on the Maryland situation and their defection from the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) to the Big Ten Conference. Pederson noted the financial nexus of Maryland's move to the Big Ten and explained to the group the significance of key television markets and the Big Ten Network. Pederson noted that he and the Chancellor have had discussions on the matter and are working with the ACC Commissioner and colleagues at other ACC institutions to assess the current landscape and plan for the future. Fabian then introduced Dan Bartholomae, Associate Athletic Director for Compliance & Sport Services.

Academic Progress Rate and Pitt Athletics

Dan Bartholomae provided the group with a handout and began his comments by providing an overview of the academic progress rate (APR) and how it is calculated. Bartholomae pointed out that APR is the contemporaneous measure of academic performance developed by the NCAA Committee on Academic Performance. Bartholomae explained that data is based on a point system in which points are given for eligibility and retention/graduation on a term by term basis. Bartholomae noted that APR points are only calculated for student-athletes on athletics aid. Bartholomae pointed out that the APR scores are reported annually on a team by team basis, and that the reported scores encompass the most recently submitted academic year cohort and the three previous years (cohorts). Bartholomae also noted that in certain cases, eligibility and retention points can be "waived" due to circumstances that are legislated for; or in circumstances outside of a student's control supported by documentation. Bartholomae explained that students who previously were on athletics aid, left Pitt and lost (or would have lost) an APR point can achieve a "graduation bonus point" if they return to Pitt (only) and achieve their degree. The bonus point is applied to the academic year in which they graduate.

Bartholomae reviewed the APR scoring information and explained that scores are calculated by taking an average of all points available for a student-athlete on that team over a four-year rolling period. Bartholomae noted that APR scores are released publicly once per year, generally in May and the data is generally submitted from the institution to the NCAA in October. Bartholomae provided the group with an example and stated that the team APR scores that were released in May 2012 reflect a 4 year average of data covering 2007-08; 2008-09; 2009-10; and 2010-11 academic years. Bartholomae discussed the head coach APR system and then reviewed the APR penalty structure. Bartholomae stated that currently, in order to avoid penalty, a team must maintain a four year average of at least a 930.

Bartholomae reviewed with the group some highlights of Pitt's APR. Bartholomae pointed out that the men's basketball program was publicly recognized as being in the top 10% of their sport with a score of 990, which ranks them 2nd in the Big East and 2nd in the "new" ACC. Bartholomae shared with the group the 2010-11 APR report which was released by the NCAA in May 2012.

Fabian thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.