

**Senate Athletics Committee Meeting
October 18, 2012**

Elected Members:

Present

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

Student Representatives:

	Michelle Donato
X	Gordon Louderback
X	Preston Thomas

***Staff Association
Member:***

X	Barbara Mowery
---	----------------

Pro-Tem Members:

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

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

	Susan Albrecht
	David DeJong
X	Steve Pederson

***Senate Liaison
Appointments:***

Thomas Smitherman
Lori Molinaro
Michael Pinsky

Lou Fabian began the meeting by welcoming everyone and by asking each attendee to introduce themselves. Fabian then reviewed with the group the committees' purpose and explained the committee make-up (i.e., elected members, student representatives, pro-tem, etc). Fabian also discussed the voting process and reviewed the importance of the committee in regards to institutional control and when making recommendations to Steve Pederson, athletic director, on NCAA rule proposals involving academic matters.

Lou then turned the meeting over to Steve Pederson to provide the group with an update on the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC).

Pederson started his comments by stating the importance of the committees' work and how important each member is to our athletic department and the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt). Pederson noted that he appreciates everyone's work and he considers many on the committee to be great people and great friends. Pederson also mentioned Lou Fabian's outstanding service to the University and Senate Athletics Committee. Pederson thanked Fabian for his service and great work.

Atlantic Coast Conference Update

Pederson discussed the move from the Big East Conference to the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) with the group. Pederson provided some background information regarding the exit fee and twenty-seven month notice. Pederson stated that the decision to leave the Big East was made in September 2011 and a lawsuit was later pursued by the University against the Big East which later led to the discussions for an increased exit fee and shorter window to exit the Big East. Pederson mentioned the significance of the move to the ACC and shared with the group the significant increase in revenue for the athletic department and university from the ACC. Pederson noted that by moving to the ACC, Pitt will increase its annual revenue by about eight million dollars per year. Pederson stated that they were able to get an exit deal done with the Big East and will officially become a member of the ACC in July 2013. Pederson stated the importance of finishing strong in the Big East Conference this year and the importance of also preparing for next year in the ACC. Pederson noted that the coaches must work hard to compete at a high level now while also planning for the future. Pederson shared with the group the September 2012 news relating to Notre Dame and its acceptance into the ACC in all sports but football. Pederson discussed the ACC scheduling plan with the addition of Notre Dame into the ACC. Pederson noted the significance of the ACC contract with Notre Dame and the fact that they would have to join the ACC in football if they ever wanted to go into a Conference with football. Pederson also noted the agreement that was made by the ACC Council of Presidents to increase the exit fee from ten million dollars to fifty million dollars. Pederson also discussed the strong academic mission of the ACC and their commitment to making academics a top priority.

Pederson stated that Pitt is better aligned with the ACC. Pederson also explained to the group that there would be 7 teams in each division and Pitt would be placed in the coastal division. In response to questions, Pederson noted that he would like to renew the Pitt rivalry with Penn State and that he has had discussions with the Penn State athletic director. In response to questions, Pederson stated that planning meetings are underway and he has met with Kathy Humphrey and Dave DeJong regarding the master plan and the possibility of an indoor track facility. Pederson also noted that a future track facility would also be important for student recreation and student life (in addition to the benefits received by the athletic department and its student-athletes).

Fabian then introduced Donna Sanft, Executive Associate Athletic Director.

Freeh Report and Pitt Athletic Department Response

Donna Sanft began her comments by providing the group with a brief overview of the Freeh Report and the timeline of the report. Sanft discussed the importance of institutional control and the integration of athletics into the university. Sanft pointed out the recommendations made in the Freeh Report that were specific to athletics. Sanft made note of the recommendations regarding the importance of compliance and integrating athletics closer to the rest of the university. Sanft also mentioned the report's recommendation in regards to the safety and well-being of children on the university campus. Sanft discussed the actions taken by Pitt in light of the issues that surfaced at Penn State University. Sanft discussed the involvement of the University General Counsel and explained the action items that were implemented by the Athletic Department and General Counsel in response to the incident at Penn State. Sanft explained the background checks that were conducted on all the athletic department staff members. Sanft noted that each athletic department staff member underwent an FBI clearance, Pennsylvania criminal background check clearance and a Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare clearance. Sanft noted that all of the clearances performed on athletic department staff were submitted to University Human Resources. Sanft also mentioned the new requirements that were included in the license agreements for outside entities using athletic facilities. Sanft noted the new requirements for sport clubs and camps that use our athletic facilities. Sanft also explained that the license agreement for sport club and camp/clinic facility usage includes new requirements for mandatory employee background checks. Sanft also noted that the sport clubs and camps are owned by Pitt coaches. The sports clubs and camps are not owned by the university. Sanft reviewed with the group other action items which included Clery Act training and sexual misconduct training. Sanft noted that athletic department staff members were required to complete the on-line Clery Act Training course and the sexual misconduct course. Sanft also noted the General Counsel's review of areas within the university and athletic department that involve children. Sanft pointed out the importance of protecting children on campus and having clear reporting lines to report incidents.

Fabian concluded the meeting by noting that our institution does have oversight of athletics and that our culture is much different than other institutions. Fabian thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.