



KSU Athletics Board
September 21, 2011
Meeting Notes

Because there were new members on the committee, everyone introduced themselves.

The meeting notes were approved as posted on the I:\ drive.

Vaughn Williams gave his Athletics Director Report. He is thoroughly enjoying what he is doing in Athletics and thanked everyone who has helped him since coming to KSU five months ago. He distributed a revised org chart, a copy of which is on the I:\drive. Positions have been added and adjusted to make the Athletics Department more efficient—Heath Senour has joined them as Compliance Associate, Katie Egloff has joined them as Events and Championships Assistant, and Karen Pfiefer has been promoted to Student Welfare Associate and Program Administrator. Please note that not everybody is reporting to the Athletic Director as they did in the past.

The department is forming committees based on internal and external needs—i.e., Athletic Association and Student Association—and are looking at goals of immediate and long-term needs. As soon as the University has developed their Strategic Plan, they will begin developing their own. Their values for this year are trust, transparency and teamwork, and they are working on how to move forward on-campus and off-campus.

Capital projects that the department is currently working on are: new strength and conditioning areas, renovation of existing basketball and baseball facilities, new office space, new rehab area, and a track at the sports park. They are working with a sponsor for a video board, continuing to look at football, and working on their long-term facility needs.

One advantage of the Athletic Association is that it gives the department more business leverage with contracts and vendors, allowing them to enter into multi-year agreements and giving them the ability to produce funds to fulfill their mission. It does not take away from accountability—they are still part of the University and the BOR—but it makes them more efficient. Integrity and character are still important.

Heath Senour from Compliance was welcomed. He is still in the analyzing stage and trying to figure things out, is making improvements and enhancements, and is making changes to streamline procedures to make them more efficient. Internal and external Customer Service is extremely important to him. He has met with the coaches regarding rules education, and is hearing positive feedback from them. His staff is Justin Stewart and Cindy Gillam, and if you have any questions, please contact any of them.

He would like to make everyone aware of the NCAA rules by educating them and making the rules available in many venues. He would also like to make the coaches and staff more accountable for policies and monitoring, and would like to create a comfort level for the coaches to come to him to self report violations.

He plans to meet with Ron Day to see how Financial Aid operates and how they can work together, and he will be meeting with faculty mentors, especially regarding academic fraud, and with the Registrar to see if any improvements can be made to the registration process.

Susan Rouse's sub-committee for the Academic Support Committee reported on their three-year assessment of SASS. The committee consisted of Susan Rouse (Chair), Brian Gankler, Michael Heard, Valerie Jackson, Ellen Tabor, Susan Stockdale, and Raj Veliyath. They worked from a baseline report and interviewed people across campus regarding ways to strengthen SASS. A copy of their recommendations is on the I:\ drive.

Steve Benton commented on the recommendations. He and Heath have discussed ways to streamline compliance. The new SASS newsletter for students and coaches—in .pdf and hardcopy—is being distributed, and he is encouraging the coaches and students to pay more attention to the information that is sent out by SASS. Someone requested that the Athletics Board be added to the distribution list.

New computers have been received, and the laptops that they had have been updated. They have a total of 12 desktops now, but need at least 25. Space is always a problem, and is being looked at as Athletics grows.

SASS is working with other departments on campus to develop a tutorial database.

SASS is critical for student-athletes to graduate with high GPAs when limited resources are available.

Randy Stuart was introduced and welcomed as the new FAR. The FAR serves as the eyes and ears of the faculty and the Athletic Board in the day-to-day operations of the Athletic Department. As a former President of the Faculty Senate, Randy has great credibility with the faculty.

Dr. Papp reported that the Athletics Association is up and running. The BOR approved it in August. They are still finalizing their membership, but their first meeting was last Friday. The purpose of the Association is to serve as a vehicle through which Athletics runs its business. It will provide flexibility to obtain and spend funds and ability to enter into multi-year contracts.

Dr. Papp had a brainstorm. He asked if anyone had heard about the realignment of conferences that is going on at this time. What if we asked for membership to join the SEC? It is an off-the-wall idea, but he will discuss it further with Tom and Vaughn. He thinks that football is driving the decisions of the realignment in the conferences.

He was asked where we are on raising the 8 -12 program regarding football? He reported that we are about to begin raising it. A number of folks who want to give money have talked with Dr. Papp, but no one wants to be the lead gift for naming rights of the stadium.

Tom mentioned the article, “The Shame of College Sports” by Taylor Branch. It is getting a lot of attention, and he encourages everyone to read it, a copy of which is on the I:\ drive.

Nancy King reported on the Majority, Gender, and Life Skills Committee (MGLS). The committee developed a five-year plan mandated by NCAA which was approved by this committee last spring. They developed a checklist for Fall-Spring 2011, because this should be a working document. She met with Vaughn and Karen, and they think that we are right on target, although some things still need to be completed in 2012. She will give a full report of the committee at the end of the year. Please see their list of recommendation on the I:\ drive, many of which have already been completed.

Bob Mattox, Karen Pfiefer, Tyler Pedee, Steve Benton, and the Center for Student Leadership are working on a leadership program for student-athletes which would be collaboration between academics and Athletics. A copy of their program proposal is on the I:\ drive. Dr. Papp suggested that it might be useful to come up with a short pithy name for the leadership program, which will ultimately become a part of the First Year Experience program. They could use some resources to implement it, but are hoping that it will become a gold standard.

Tom Keene gave a report of the Admissions Advisory Committee. The committee is working on a team risk assessment process (spreadsheet and chart available for the coaches) regarding APR vulnerability. They are hoping to pull together a preliminary version around October 1, and their key effort is to work with the coaches early regarding their team risks so that they won't bring in recruits who are not appropriate choices given their situations. Tom talked with David Clough regarding his program in Colorado.

Steve Benton and Bob Mattox are taking Grades First to the English and Math Departments. It is a student tracking system of grades, tutoring, and study halls. Since implementation, there has been a 58% response rate, which is up from what it used to be which is 20 – 30%. It is a useful way to stay abreast of what our student-athletes are doing in the classroom. Communication is key, and Steve asks that we please spread word to encourage its use. Steve plans to talk with the Grades First company to make some improvements to the program.

He reported that the Mentor program, which is up to about 30 now, has expanded to not only focus on student-athletes who are special admits or who are having academic difficulty, but now will include freshman. They hope to help build relationships with a person of power, such as faculty members, because they need somebody outside of Athletics that they can get advice from. If you know of any faculty or staff member (including retirees) who might be interested, please contact Steve.

Data processing of Exit Interviews is going slowly. Patrick Devine will make a full report to the MGLS Committee, and the information will be presented at the next meeting.

As a side note, Dr. Papp said that for about five years now, the Atlantic Sun has required KSU to start a men's soccer team beginning in Fall 2012. He has had an impromptu conversation with the Presidents of the Atlantic Sun, and we may not have to start soccer at all in order to make them an auto qualifier. Several schools have requested to be made affiliated members of the Atlantic Sun, and at the October Presidents' meeting they will vote on accepting affiliated members and adding women's lacrosse and sand volleyball, which wouldn't start until fall 2013.

The next meeting will be November 16, 2011 from 12:30 – 1:50 p.m. in **SO 4060**, and subsequent meetings will be February 15 and May 2, 2012 at the same time and same place.

Meeting notes submitted by Judi Walper and Tom Keene
September 21, 2011