



UAAAC Minutes

Date 02/06/2024 Start Time 4:00 PM Adjournment Time 5:10 PM Location SSC Conf. Rm
 Type of Meeting Regular Special

CHAIR	Arturo Rodriguez
SECRETARY	Shannon Banks
ATTENDEES	Leigh Hersey, Patti Pate, Shelly Barton, David Reed, Ann Rodriguez, DeRon Talley, John Hartwell, Carmen Wright, Anthony Malta
ABSENT (EXCUSED)	Ty Harp, Valerie Fields

Agenda

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS	
The meeting minutes from the November meeting were distributed and approved without change.	
DISCUSSION TOPICS	
<p>The meeting was called to order by Dr. Arturo Rodriguez.</p> <p>FAR Update: (Leigh Hersey):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women's Leadership through Sports event was a great success. - SunBelt meeting to be held on Wednesday, Feb 7th. Leigh will give an update at the next UAAAC meeting. - FAR meeting was held on Jan 17th. All schools seem to be facing the same issues including discouraging students from certain majors because of the workload, however, ULM seems to be progressing well in this area. - The faculty awards survey was distributed to the members for review and feedback requested. The QR code worked well last year with plans to use it again this year. Counselors will remind athletes during advising to fill out the survey and nominations will close prior to our April meeting so that the committee can review and decide on the award recipient. - There is continued discussion with the Provost on excused absences and communication with the faculty. This will be discussed more with the faculty during the fall University Week. <p>Athletics/Compliance (David Reed, John Hartwell):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - David announced that Austin Siegal, a 2nd semester grad student, was added to the compliance staff this Spring. - The APR report was distributed to the members of the committee. Overall, the results were very pleasing. Although last year's football APR was 927, the multiyear rate was 935 which is good. Everything else looked good. - The Rules Education program continues to go very well. This includes the Mandatory Rules Education for coaches and assistants, the Sky Box initiative in the fall during football season, the Booster guide which is ready to be distributed and the Parent and Local Business guides which will be ready to go very soon. - NIL update: ULM has aligned with Fan Inc. which allows for fans to be able to donate money directly to a student athlete's account in any of the sports. It protects the Institution by taking away the liability, is 100% legal, creates tax documents for each transaction, and is all managed by a 3rd party. It will also allow for fans to hone in on donating to specific players in all sports and will be great for fundraising. - David and Carmen continue to push for a "universal hold" for student athletes to ensure they are safeguarded and prevent violations that might occur with changes made to the student's situation (meal plans, housing, etc.) - John announced that the new football staff is up and running with increased recruiting efforts already underway. There are a few off-field entry level positions still to be filled. - There is ongoing discussion about potentially moving to early morning practices (primarily football, but possibly some other sports) for the Fall 2024 semester. More will come on this when a decision has been made. - It was announced that athletics is transitioning away from Learfield as a 3rd party multi media manager and will be working with Van Wagner for sports advertising which should lead to an increase in income for Athletics. 	

Academics (Patti Pate, Carmen Wright):

- Patti informed the committee that advising for summer and fall semester will begin in late Feb/early March. Summer I registration begins on March 18th while Special Groups registration for fall will be on April 9th.
- Student First reports will be coming out soon to all faculty with student athletes.
- Carmen informed the committee that the ULM football team has held the #1 rank for GSR in the SunBelt conference for the last 8 years which is an awesome accomplishment.
- Carmen and Leigh met with the Graduate School to discuss athletes getting a second undergraduate degree vs grad school, and these discussions went very well.
- It was brought to the committee's attention that there's been a drop in the number of 2nd 8-week online courses which are key in some cases for student athletes to maintain eligibility. Carmen encouraged the members to talk to their faculty about increasing the number of these online courses if possible.
- The skeleton crew used for Signing Day over Christmas break worked very well. Carmen was thankful to each of these groups who participated.
- A date for the Spring Banquet has been potentially set for April 29th. More on this when a date has been finalized.

Equity and Student Well-Being (John Hartwell, Leigh Hersey)

- "Real Response" is a software that is being looked at for potential use in the future. Over 130 athletic departments around the country are currently using it. It gives 24/7, 365 day access to student athletes to air concerns including mental health issues, Title IX issues, dorm issues, etc. Students can post anonymously if needed and there are direct links to Title IX. John thinks that this would be excellent for our student athletes and is looking into funding. Its cost is approximately \$20k/year.
- The Sleep Program continues to focus on the importance of sleep for student athletes.
- There has been discussion about some of the travel busses not having wifi during travel. John reported that wifi is a part of all of the bids that go out for busses and that all future busses should have wifi for students.
- Carmen reported that Helen Grant, a consultant contracted by the SunBelt, has been on campus conducting a Title IX DEI review. An update will be given at the next meeting.

New Business/Announcements

- March 1st: tennis clinic for all faculty and staff who want to attend.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 5th at 4:00 pm in the SSC conference room.

CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS		PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Approved by committee/council chair Yes on