



UAAAC Minutes

Date 10/03/2023 Start Time 4:00 PM Adjournment Time 4:51 PM Location SSC Conf. Rm
 Type of Meeting Regular Special

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

Agenda

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS	
September minutes were approved with removal of "Wendy Bailes" from Attendee list.	
DISCUSSION TOPICS	
<p>Dr. Leigh Hersey served as acting chair in Dr. Arturo Rodriguez's absence.</p> <p>New Committee Members: Dr. Ann Rodriguez and Mr. David Reed were introduced as new members of the committee. Following a brief introduction by each, all members in attendance introduced themselves to the new members.</p> <p>FAR Update: (Leigh Hersey) -- Leigh has been meeting with the athletic teams to let them know what the FAR does and to make them aware of this committee so that they know that they have academic support in each of their colleges across campus. Leigh also met with the SAAC (Student Athlete Advisory Committee) on 10/02 and encouraged them to send student athlete representatives to this committee so that we can get feedback directly from them. SAAC representatives should be in attendance at the next UAAAC meeting. The Sun Belt conference meetings will be taking place in October. ULM's Korie Kreps will be recognized for receiving the post graduate scholarship as well as announcement of accolades and awards for all of the teams. Of note, ULM softball had one of the highest amounts of community service hours in the conference and ULM women's basketball tied for highest GPA in the conference. Director Hartwell confirmed that a new person has been hired to take on the dedicated role of Mental Health awareness in Athletics.</p> <p>Athletics and Compliance: (John Hartwell, David Reed) - Director Hartwell shared that a draft NIL policy has been given to President Berry for review and final approval. Focus is on shifting from a reactive mode to a proactive mode in terms of policies and procedures in athletics. A Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee is being formed and will have student athlete representatives from all 17 sports along with a cross-section of coaches, administrators and people from across campus. The primary purposes of this committee will be to champion the cause for cultural events (2 to 3 each year) and to serve as a platform, much like the SAAC, to put potential or current issues among teams on the table for discussion before they become an issue of division among team members and student athletes. A formalized policy on how the committee will be populated will be shared with the UAAAC once created. In addition, a Student Athlete Wellness Committee is being created and will be composed of academic and athletic advisors, athletic trainer/team doctor, the Athletic Director, the Compliance Director and a few others. No student athletes or coaches will be on the team. The purpose of this committee will be to identify athletes facing life challenges that need help and the best way to facilitate the help that is needed.</p> <p>Director Reed spoke on NCAA compliance with focus from his office being placed on eligibility and financial aid at this time. He identified a need for NCAA compliance education among new coaches, administrators and others to ensure everyone is educated on compliance policies. This will eventually spread across campus to areas such as financial aid, housing, Registrar, etc. A compliance policy manual is in preparation and will be presented to the UAAAC for review once completed. The FAR will be heavily involved in compliance decisions, especially those related to academics. Leigh and David have been meeting every other week to discuss these policies.</p>	

Academics: (Patti Pate, Oliver Jackson, Anthony Malta). Patti shared that Spring 2024 advising will begin on October 9th with Special Groups registering on November 7th. She also confirmed that Talon Reports include student athletes. ULM Students First requests were sent out to all instructors of student athletes to provide feedback on academic progress. Oliver Jackson explained that the process for student athlete advising is for the student to meet with their academic advisor first and then meet with their athletic advisor to discuss those courses. Academic and athletic advisors will work together to address any issues or concerns with courses, schedules, etc. Athletic advisors will meet with their teams to inform students to set up a meeting with their academic advisor. The drop date is October 24th and athletic advisors will start on October 17th to ensure that all courses are dropped that need to be dropped prior to the 24th deadline. Anthony Malta announced that the Spring 2024 schedule of classes will be released on Friday, October 6th. First 8 weeks grades are due on the 16th.

Equity and Student Well-Being and Academic Integrity and Compliance: (L. Hersey) - These subcommittees were left on the agenda as placeholders for future issues to be discussed as they arise.

New Business: Many teams are traveling including the tennis and volleyball teams. Continue to follow and show support for all ULM teams throughout the fall and spring semesters.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 7th at 4:00 pm in the SSC conference room.

CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS		PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Approved by committee/council chair Yes on