



UAAAC Minutes

Date 09/05/2024 Start Time 2:30 PM Adjournment Time 3:42 PM Location SSC Conf. Rm
 Type of Meeting Regular Special

CHAIR	Arturo Rodriguez
SECRETARY	Shannon Banks
ATTENDEES	Leigh Hersey, John Hartwell, Patti Pate, DeRon Talley, Carmen Wright, Shelley Barton, Cody Sparrow, Valerie Fields, Ty Harp, Tyler Fricker
ABSENT (EXCUSED)	Anthony Malta

Agenda

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS	
The meeting minutes from the April 2024 meeting were distributed and approved without change.	
DISCUSSION TOPICS	
<p>The meeting was called to order by Arturo Rodriguez.</p> <p>New committee members were introduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cody Sparrow - Senior Associate Athletic Director, Compliance Services - Tyler Fricker - Assistant Professor of Geography, Atmospheric Sciences <p>FAR Update: (Leigh Hersey):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A SunBelt meeting was held in May in which the FARs from each university met. One of the main topics of discussion centered around students traveling and making sure that they have access to computers, study rooms, proctors, etc., if needed. All of the FARs were in agreement and willing to do what they needed to to make this happen. Further discussions and details will be forthcoming. - Leigh announced that ULM athletes are at the top in Graduation Success Rates - Leigh presented to three of the university colleges during University Week and introduced herself as the ULM FAR, explained her role and let the colleges know that she is here to help them concerning student athletes. Leigh also discussed athlete awards and the Faculty of the Year recipients and nominees. The plan is to continue this on an annual basis during University Week in the fall semester. - Leigh has met with all but 3 athletic teams at the time of this meeting, introducing herself as the FAR and the presence of the UAAAC committee. - A discussion was had concerning excused absences for student athletes and issues with lack of faculty accommodations for those absences. Leigh suggested a policy for faculty addressing this. Dr. Fields mentioned that there have also been issues with Spirit groups and accommodations for excused absences. Dr. Fields plans to speak with Dr. Arant about this. - Leigh asked if Athletics could continue to have conversations with coaches about leaving for events at the latest time possible to allow student athletes to not miss classes and exams. John mentioned that sometimes this can't be helped due to practice time available at away events, but that whenever possible, teams will do what they can to leave later. <p>Athletics/Compliance (John Hartwell, Cody Sparrow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John announced the new coaches (Baylee Young - beach volleyball, Daniel Cabrera - women's indoor volleyball) - There is an Assistant Compliance position open with several applicants - The vacant Development Officer position is being revamped to focus on revenue generation and will be renamed something similar to "Deputy Athletic Director for Revenue Generation" - actual job title to be determined. - Scholarship limitations are being replaced by squad size limitations. Baseball, Softball and Soccer numbers will increase substantially. UL system Athletic Directors along with other NCAA Division I schools in Louisiana (excluding LSU) will meet in Baton Rouge this month to discuss the financial challenges this will bring. 	

- Football reunion, including some former coaches, will be during the UAB game on September 7th.
- Women's soccer started 6-0, the best record in school history.
- John reintroduced Cody Sparrow who spoke briefly about his first week on the job with focus right now on making sure student athletes are eligible to compete.

Academics (Patti Pate, Carmen Wright):

- Spring 2024 advising will begin on October 7th.
- There is concern about football players being able to register for classes with football practice being in the mornings and there being fewer classes available in the afternoon. This was an issue during Fall registration. John spoke with Coach Vincent about possibly holding spring practices even earlier in the morning so that players would be able to register for mid-morning classes. Coach Vincent was receptive to this suggestion.
- Carmen shared that they are down one athletic advisor at the moment with Tyler's departure but will continue to move forward with athletic advising.
- Carmen identified last minute class changes (class cancellations, time changes, and f2f moving to online) as some of the biggest issues with class scheduling for student athletes. International student athletes have to have a certain number of f2f classes to remain eligible and this is impacting them, as well. Carmen met with Dr. Arant about class offerings to see what can be modified and will send options to him for further discussion.
- Warhawk Welcome was held and recognized student athletes on the academic honor roll and Commissioner's list for the SunBelt.
- Financial Aid and Student Accounts staff did an excellent job in helping to sort through student athlete bills, setting up payment plans and making sure that students didn't get dropped. John and Carmen talked about a possible luncheon for these staff members to recognize their commitment to helping.
- Recipients of the Extra Yard for Teachers grant will be recognized at the October 5th football game. Recipients are Carroll Junior High School and the Talented Arts Program in West Monroe. This is also the Breast Cancer awareness game.

Equity and Student Well-Being (Leigh Hersey)

- September 16th - Mental Health meeting with student athletes scheduled.

New Business/Announcements

- October 3rd - Night of Champions which is an annual auction to benefit Athletics as a whole. Plans are to be held in Fant-Ewing assuming renovations are complete.
- Meeting time was discussed and decided that we will meet on the first Thursday of each month at 3:30 pm in the SSC conference room.
- Next meeting: October 3rd, 3:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:42 pm.

CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Approved by committee/council chair Yes on