University Athletics Committee  
September 21, 2005, 11:00 AM  
142 Rawl Annex

Person Presiding: Dr. Dosser (former chair) called the meeting to order at 11:11 AM. Following election of committee officers, Dr. Taggart assumed the presiding role as Chair of the 2005/2006 University Athletics Committee.

Regular Members in Attendance: Alta Andrews, Rosina Chia, James Holloway, Glenn Rohrer, Marty Schultz, Terry Senne, and Mark Taggart.

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: David Dosser, Mike Felts, Nick Floyd, Grant Jarman, Jennifer McMahon, Henry Peel, and Rosie Thompson.

Others in Attendance: Terry Holland, Lori Lee, and Catherine Rigsby.

Actions of Meeting

I. Introductions: Dr. Dosser introduced Dr. Rigsby, Chair of the Faculty Senate, and Ms. Lee, Administrative Assistant to the Faculty Senate, to committee members. Dr. Rigsby gave opening remarks relative to the transition of UAC to a standing committee of the Faculty Senate and the Committee’s charge. Next, committee members introduced themselves to one another. Mr. Floyd shared how ECU Athletics would be supporting the Tulane Women’s Volleyball team in terms of lodging accommodations and meals during their conference volleyball match at ECU due to the impact of Hurricane Katrina.

II. Election of Committee Officers: Dr. Dosser conducted elections of committee officers for the 2005/2006 academic year. The results were as follows: Dr. Mark Taggart, Chair; Dr. James Holloway, Vice Chair; and Dr. Terry Senne, Secretary. Following elections, Dr. Taggart presided over the remainder of the meeting.


   Goal 1: Development of Procedures/Protocol to Employ for Committee Meetings, Agenda Items and Reports [Transition of UAC to a Faculty Senate Committee]. Dr. Taggart suggested that various reporting structures be put in place to report at designated committee meetings. It was determined that the Academic Integrity Subcommittee would typically report to the UAC in October on spring/summer 2005 semester/sessions and again in January on fall 2005 semester data. Dr. Dosser recommended expanding the role of Academic Integrity Subcommittee beyond its present functions to develop and prepare the executive reports.

   Goal 2: Determine Meeting Dates/Times/Locations. Dr. Taggart requested that committee members consider the 4th Wednesday afternoon of each month for meetings. However, it was pointed out that this would not be ideal for at least the November and December meeting dates. Committee members were asked to consider Wednesday afternoons in November and December for discussion at the October meeting. Remaining meeting dates for spring semester and a proposed meeting time for the Academic Integrity Subcommittee will also be addressed to discuss compliance issues. Dr. Dossier commented on the importance of getting
input from the student-athletes. The committee needs to take into consideration times that student-athlete and student government representatives will be available to attend UAC meetings. Dr. Dosser also clarified that Jenny Quinn is President of the Student Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC). UAC meetings that occur after the October meeting will be scheduled for the Pat Draughon Multipurpose Lounge in the Sports Medicine Building.

**Goal 3: Continued Examination of Athlete Attendance Policy and University Excused Absence Policy.** It was suggested that issues related to these two policies such as faculty reporting practices and syllabi attendance policies also be examined. Dr. Dosser stated that Athletics did not send out a memorandum this fall to date concerning the athlete attendance policy; however this policy is in place. The revised university excused absence policy was sent back to the Admission and Retention Policies Committee in April 2005. Dr. Dosser further recommended the need for regular communication with this committee. Since Dr. Holloway serves as an ex-officio member of the Admission and Retention Policies Committee, he will serve in the capacity as liaison to UAC.

**Goal 4: Continued Examination of ECU Gender Equity and Minority Opportunity Plans.** Dr. Dosser and Ms. Thompson proposed this item as another UAC goal for the 2005/2006 year with determining the role of UAC in evaluating progress with both of these plans.

**Goal 5: Continued Examination of Academic Performance and Graduation Rates of ECU Students vs. ECU Student-Athletes and vs. C-USA Athletes.** Continued tracking on student-athlete academic performance and graduation rates in comparison to ECU students in general will be examined. Dr. Dosser suggested that Dr. Powell, Director of Admissions, present a report on the same at the October UAC meeting. The Academic Integrity Subcommittee will establish a regular meeting time to discuss implications arising from these reports at the October meeting. Dr. Riggsby clarified the composition of this committee stating the committee is composed of the faculty members serving on the UAC. Dr. Dosser will also present a report on ECU academic squad rankings in C-USA during the October meeting. Dr. Dosser stated that the C-USA Award of Excellence has been discontinued.

**Goal 6: Examination of Decision Making Process in Determining Student-Athlete Admissions and Eligibility.** Dr. Dosser proposed examination of the decision making process in determining student-athlete admissions and eligibility as another goal for the 2005-06 UAC. It was recommended that Dr. Powell present a report addressing initial and continuing eligibility, progress toward degree, and special talent waivers for ECU student-athletes. This is a proposed agenda item for the October UAC meeting.

**Goal 7: Review University Undergraduate Catalog Sections Aligned with UAC’s Charge.** Dr. Riggsby recommended the formation of a UAC subcommittee to review specified sections of the *University Undergraduate Catalog* that pertain to the charge of UAC as an oversight measure (described in Item 4.E. of the ECU Faculty Senate UAC Charge). This would allow needed editorial review of such sections to ensure information provided is current, reflecting any policy or other changes that have occurred since the last edition. Dr. Schultz and Dr. Andrews were appointed to serve in this capacity.
IV. Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics
The committee discussed whether we should have members from the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics come discuss issues with UAC. Dr. Rigsby suggested that a faculty member of UAC assume that role. Dr. Taggart will serve in this role representing the UAC.

V. ECU Student Government Association Representative
Dr. Dosser agreed to talk with Cole Jones, President, SGA, regarding a representative to serve on the UAC.

VI. Terry Holland, Director of Athletics Comments
Mr. Holland discussed the need for continued focus on student-athlete class attendance, and to consider what the Department of Athletics may be able to do to facilitate this. He stated the challenge facing Athletics, given the current make-up of C-USA with respect to travel. Mr. Holland also affirmed the need to deal with substance rather than impression with respect to issues revolving around Athletics. He commented that while winning games is important, the primary focus needs to be in building a program. He further stated that along these lines, communication is key. It was brought up that one important venue where substance rather than impression can be used is when the UAC makes its annual report to Faculty Senate.

VII. Proposed Excused Absence Policy
Dr. Rigsby addressed the notion of “perception” with respect to the proposed excused absence policy. For example, some faculty perceive that when an athlete misses his/her class, it will require additional time on the part of the faculty member outside of class to address content missed. Additionally, students need to make choices. Dr. Dosser commented that there needs to be flexibility and compromise in the excused absence policy, providing alternative ways in which the work can be made up, such as distance education.

VIII. October Agenda Items
The committee determined the following agenda items for October’s meeting:
1. Report of initial and continuing eligibility, progress toward degree, & special talent waivers (Dr. Powell)
2. Sub-committee report on compliance with the University Undergraduate Catalog
3. Report from the Director of Athletics representative
4. Report from the Faculty Athletics representative, ECU academic squad rankings in C-USA

IX. November Agenda Item
1. Report from Ms. Boyce on ECU student-athlete majors

X. Next Meeting
The next meeting of the UAC is scheduled for October 26, 2005 at 11:00 AM in 142 Rawl Annex.

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry A. Senne, Secretary