University Athletics Committee Meeting

Sept 28th 3:30 pm  Held In Teams

Attendees:  Michael Harris, Karen Vail-Smith, Cal Christian, Peter Francia,  Charles Meadows, Thompson Forbes, Sharon Justice, Mark Sanders, Alex Durland, Eric Kneubuehl, Adrienne Cowell (SGA), Timm Hackett, Shannon Powell, Stacy Warner, Jean-Luc Scemama, Rachel Baer

Athletics:  Jon Gilbert, Jennifer Boyce, Alex Kiddie

Jean-Luc Scemama called the meeting to order, reviewed the committee charge, and proceeded with officer elections.

- Chair – Alex Durland
- Vice Chair – Sharon Justice
- Secretary – Thompson Forbes

Jon Gilbert provided an update,

- LearField contract is under review and open bids are happening
- Announced Hall of Fame winners

Questions:

- Stacy Warner -Large Classroom space was eliminated-Gilbert to follow up
- How do people feel being back on campus:  student athlete view
  - Good feeling back, most are vaccinated which helps
  - 47 new employees in the department, most change over ever

Roster status:  Last year did not count

- Example:  We can give 85 football scholarships.  If you have 5 Covid seniors, you have 90 football scholarships.  Next year we have to be back to the 85 scholarship level.
- Alex Keddie estimated 8 covid seniors, soccer a few, volleyball 2, Women’s BB, 1  Men’s BB 1.  The extra 5 year kids do not guarantee a roster spot due to the nature of scholarship availability, budget, etc.

Cal Christian FAR gave an update.  Nita Boyce retired in May, they are currently down 3 athletic advisors plus Director.  Jennifer Bonner is the interim director.  Hope is to have all positions fill mid October.

Spring GPA overall was 3.18.  Cum 3.25.  Several teams had the best GPAs of all time.

Fewer Freshman came to school for summer school due to lack of funding.  NCAA did change rules that allow students to be on campus in summer without being enrolled for summer session.

Current Compliance discussion.  Nursing majors have conflicts during one semester due to program.  There are limits on university excused absences.  There are 3 student athletes missing competitions because of class scheduling issues.  Cal stays involved in these discussions to help navigate competitions and course conflicts.
The current challenge is navigating the transfer portal with graduate student and program requirements. There are no standard admission criteria, but openings can be rare in certain programs. Cal spends time educating coaches on the grad program concerns.

NIL: Alex provided an update. NCAA approved NIL June 30th and went into effect July 1. Alex and team rolled out training and education sessions the first week of July. MSOE partnered and offered multi sessions on NIL and running it like a business. Towne Bank offered a financial literacy course. We have 70 NIL deals submitted.

Group Discussion on Potential Goals for 2021-2022:

UAC Goals 2021-2022

1. Host one or more head coaches to meet with the committee and discuss changes in their planning/scheduling due to COVID.
2. Host Athletic Department employees from several divisions including but not limited to the Pirate Club, Administration, Facilities, Life Skills and Strength and Conditioning, to gain insight on what's available to a student athlete and how those services may have been impacted by COVID.
3. Review budget and maintain awareness of the financial implications of each decision during the year.
4. Receive updates from Alex Keddie on department compliance and changes as they relate to changes in legislation.
5. Conduct Academic Integrity Sub-committee meetings each semester and analyze data to understand academic trends among student athletes.

Reminder of the committee review of student athlete academic report

Discussion of potential update of Towne Bank Tower funding and financing

Brief discussion of AAC conference evolution

Discussion among group on how to offer scholarships to student athletes. Reminder that student athletes must be treated and have same eligibility to scholarships, admission, honor status as other students.

Adjourned at 4:34pm

Next meeting October 26 – An in-person option will be available.