

MINUTES

Faculty Athletic Council July 18, 2006

Members Present: Kim Marie Tolson, Harry Hale, Peggy Meredith, Judy Williams, Rhonda Jones, Bill McConkey, Benny Blaylock, Mike Beutner, Skeet Creekmore, Judy Fellows, Holly Casey, James Mock, and Lauri Mondschein.

Members Absent: Edwin Adams, Perry Jones, Sean Chenoweth, Gordon Harvey and Duke Marcus.

Announcements:

1. There is a Sunbelt officials meeting on campus 7/18 and 7/19.
2. The football game with Alcorn State has been moved to 8/31 at 7:00.

New Business:

1. Laurie Mondschein, Senior Woman's Athletic Administrator, presented for discussion the data that have been received from the student athlete mentor program that occurred the last half of the Spring 2006 semester. There were a total of 35 students that participated in the mentor program (MBB-8, WBB-4, MBA-2, MFB-14, MTR-4, WTR-2 and WVB-1). With the exception of WVB, all categories (% of Passing Grades, GPA and Credits Anticipated/Earned) showed significant improvement. Results that included these data from midterm to the end of the semester are outlined in the attachment as a part of these minutes. The following comments were made by Ms. Mondschein:

1. This data was presented to the Coaches' Forum last Thursday.
2. The response by faculty to requests from the Athletic Department for the academic status of the student athlete is inconsistent. If there is no response, the assumption is made that the student is passing. Grade reports will now be automated on line so that coaches can access immediately.
3. It is understood that other factors contributed to the success of the student athlete, but it is felt that the mentor program did play a part in their success.
4. Requests for additional types of data:
 - a. Print out the number of student athletes in each sport.
 - b. The number of athlete/mentor meeting scheduled and the number attended.
 - c. Select the same number of student athletes from the previous year (spring 2005) and see how they were progressing then.
 - d. Have each student athlete evaluate their experience in the mentor program.

2. Discussion concerning how to strengthen the support of the coaching staff for the mentor program:
 1. Award a coach each year for with a certificate for “Most Supportive” that could be placed in his/her personnel file.
 2. Stress the fact that this is a “free service” that is being offered by individuals with many years of experience and expertise.
 3. Coaches who “buy in” to the mentor program would mentor other coaches.
 4. Head coaches would communicate to their coaching staff that the FAC is a part of the team and that it plays a significant role in the training paradigm.

3. Compliance Meetings: These meetings for the fall sports are to begin prior to the start of practice. Plans are to have 4 different groups that will cover 4 different topics: (1) Tasha will cover compliance issues; (2) Lauri will cover behavior, drug/alcohol policies, discipline/consequences, etc; (3) Robert will cover basic academic expectations, study hall, etc. Laurie suggested that the FAC be responsible for the 4th. group. A motion was made by Benny Blaylock that the FAC assume responsibility for this 4th. group. The motion was seconded by Harry Hale and accepted by a unanimous vote by the Council. Each sport will meet as a group with the exception of football. These players will be divided into the following groups:
 1. Transfer/Freshmen – Offense
 2. Transfer/Freshmen – Defense
 3. Upper Classmen – Offense
 4. Upper Classmen – Defense

Skeet Creekmore requested that FAC members notify him if they are interested in participating. Some suggestions for topics that might be covered by the FAC were discussed briefly, such as “How do you get involved with a hybrid course?” and “How do you read the ULM catalog?” and “How do you figure your points/grade in a class?” Skeet Creekmore suggested that all FAC participants work closely in developing the content so that it would be consistent.

4. Skeet Creekmore reminded each member that they had received an email with the current membership list. A decision was made by Administration that appointments would have to be linked to a term of service. But, a member whose term expires can be voted back on by the Council if they and the member wish to return. But, the Council has the option of not inviting a member to return when their term expires.

5. Skeet Creekmore will bring a catalog for members to purchase a windbreaker or other merchandise. But, money for individual purchases will have to be turned in

prior to ordering. Members were asked to respond by email if they are interested in making a purchase.

6. Plans are for a social in the fall that will include student athletes, coaches, athletic administration, FAC, etc.
7. FAC members are invited to the coaches' meetings each Wednesday.
8. Skeet Creekmore reminded members of their responsibility to be an active part of this Council. When the Council votes on an issue, members must be willing to participate in the decision made by the group. There will be a lot to do this next year with an opportunity to make our footprint within the Department of Athletics. Each member is encouraged to join the Athletic Foundation if they have not already done so.
9. Members were reminded about the Kick-Off on August 17 at 6:00. Members are to email Skeet with number of guests because he is reserving tables.

Respectfully submitted by:

Peggy Meredith