

Athletics Planning Committee
September 12, 2016
Athletics Conference Room – Field House

AGENDA

Call to Order—Hagy

Approval of Minutes—Hagy

Athletics Director's Report—Burman

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Report—Skates

Chair's Report—Hagy

Adjourn—Hagy

Call to Order

Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) and Committee Chair Alyson Hagy called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. on September 12, 2016 in the Athletics Conference Room in the Field House.

Roll Call

Alexandra McKenna, David Aadland, Bruce Cameron, Bill Sparks, Leslie Rush, Tom Burman, Matt Whisenant, Joi Thomas, Richard Miller, Al Reiser, Tara Evans, Klint Alexander, Peter Prigge, Kalah Skates, Alyson Hagy, Kaila Mills, Tucker Readdy (visiting from Faculty Senate).

Approval of Minutes

The committee members introduced themselves. Committee Chair Hagy welcomed Tucker Readdy, who was visiting from Faculty Senate. She also discussed the new website and asked the committee to let herself and Kaila Mills in the President's Office know about pending subcommittee meeting dates so those can be posted. She mentioned the header on the minutes from the previous meeting needed to be changed to May 5, 2016. Kalah Skates asked that her title be changed in the previous meetings minutes. Associate Dean Leslie Rush moved to approve the minutes; ASUW Representative Alexandra McKenna seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Reports

Athletics Director – Burman

Athletics Director Tom Burman updated the committee on changes to the FY17-18 budget. He mentioned that members of the Athletics Staff and he attended an FCAC meeting to present preliminary information about Athletics as a department. Director Burman explained that the next step was to submit a budget reduction plan for \$1.2 million to the FCAC for their consideration. He discussed with the committee possible changes in personnel that could affect the reduction plan. Director Burman noted that some of the reductions that would be discussed with the FCAC included a reduction in members of the Spirit Squad, reduction in funding for team travel, and a reduction to the overall nutrition program. He mentioned additional cuts had occurred within the academic support program including the elimination of the iPads that had been distributed to athletes in the past. Director Burman stated that team apparel and equipment was not an area he wanted to cut because these supported the image presented by UW, but it was an area that might be trimmed in the future. He noted that game guarantees have been reduced for the men's basketball games. Director Burman added that there were plans to renegotiate, reorganize and modify contracts with vendors. Director Burman also noted that staff travel for competitions in all sports would be reduced. A primary goal of the budget reductions is to have as little impact on student-athletes as possible. Director Burman added that student-athlete scholarships, summer aid, and summer school cost of attendance will not be affected by the plan.

College of Law Dean Klint Alexander inquired about revenue enhancement.

Director Burman stated that Athletics would need to raise more money in order to cover rising costs for things like travel and student-athlete well-being. He mentioned that he did not know how the state's economy would change in the future. He noted that the vast majority of donors of \$500,000 or more are in the energy sector. He was not sure how the changes to this sector would impact donations moving forward.

Dean Alexander reminded the committee that one of the guiding principles of the FCAC was that units could counter 1/3 of their cuts through Revenue Enhancement.

Deputy Director of Athletics Matt Whisenant stated that some coaches had mentioned that next year's recruiting classes would be smaller. That will reduce costs. He also added that next year is not a big travel year for most UW teams.

Senior Associate Athletic Director for Business Operations Bill Sparks mentioned that the following year might involve larger recruiting classes. The budget would have to be adjusted accordingly.

Director Burman added that Colorado State University and Air Force were on the list to possibly transition into the Big 12. If this change occurs, the Mountain West Conference will face a poor financial situation. He added that BYU was not coming back to the Mountain West.

ASUW Representative Alexandra McKenna mentioned that she heard the UW Golden Spurs Dance Team had been cut at the end of the 2016 spring semester.

Director Burman confirmed that the Golden Spurs Dance Team had been cut. He explained that the dance team had been eliminated due to a lack of participation.

Director Burman mentioned that Athletics would face significant personnel turnover this year. Coaches and staff members recognize they will not get raises in the next few years. Thus, some individuals are seeking jobs elsewhere.

Dean Alexander asked if there was attrition from areas that had not been expected and if there was a plan to make adjustments based on these departures.

Director Burman stated that there were positions that would need to be filled. Some positions could remain vacant.

SAAC Report – Skates

SAAC President Kalah Skates mentioned that their first meeting was the previous week. She noted that SAAC wants to encourage more main campus involvement by student-athletes. She listed several events that SAAC was planning, including participation in the Big Event, an Athletics-Faculty Mixer, and the Undie Run. She noted that Athletics would be going green by providing recycling bins in the weight rooms. SAAC President Skates noted that numerous ideas had been presented during a conference call with the Mountain West SAAC about limiting student-athlete time obligations.

Senior Associate Athletic Director for Internal Operations Phil Wille mentioned that the national trend for student-athletes was reporting a lot of hours for obligations.

Committee Chair Hagy asked SAAC President Skates if she would share the Mid-American Conference SAAC proposals with the committee.

SAAC President Skates agreed that the time obligations proposals have inspired lots of discussion and added that the proposals varied from sport to sport.

Committee Chair Hagy stated that many football players who took part in a national survey would like to have two weeks off at the end of their season, for instance, while golfers and swimmers do not always like to take breaks from training.

Committee Chair – Hagy

Committee Chair Hagy updated the committee about the many campus meetings she attended this summer after the President and Trustees declared a fiscal crisis at UW. Some faculty and staff are frustrated about UW's investment in athletics. She has met with members of the Faculty Senate, the FCAC, and other groups to try to address this frustration. She added that UW President Nichols was a huge believer in input from all parties on campus. She encouraged committee members to reach out to other groups to share information and concerns. Committee Chair Hagy noted that the Mountain West was reducing costs by eliminating meetings during the basketball tournaments in Las Vegas next spring. She added that she had nominated two athletes for the Strategic Planning Leadership Council.

Dean Alexander mentioned that his brother would be in town for the Strategic Planning Kick Off Events. He added that he would also be serving on the Strategic Planning Leadership Council.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.