Faculty Athletics Committee
Annual Report, 2011-2012
Submitted April 30, 2012

1. Giovanni Ruffini, Chair

2. Members
   - Colleen Arendt
   - Christopher Huntley
   - Giovanni Ruffini
   - Amalia Rusu
   - Katsiaryna Salavei-Bardos
   - Anibal Torres

3. Number of meetings attended by each committee member
   - Arendt: Present for all 4 meetings.
   - Huntley: Present for all 4 meetings.
   - Ruffini: Present for all 4 meetings.
   - Rusu: Present for all 4 meetings.
   - Salavei-Bardos: Present for 3 meetings, absent for meeting B.
   - Torres: Present for 2 meetings, absent for meetings A and C.

4. Meetings:
   a. September 26, 2011 (called by Prof. Gary Weddle as outgoing chair)
   b. October 19, 2011
   c. November 30, 2011
   d. February 17, 2012.

5. List of principal topics considered by the committee
   a. Athlete registration issues
   b. Men’s basketball’s trip to Italy
   c. N4A visit and report
   d. Triennial survey

6. List of the decisions taken by the committee
   a. Athlete registration issues
      In response to ongoing faculty concerns, the committee continued the investigation begun last year into the issue of whether some student athletes were being registered for classes by parties in the athletic division, without in some cases any awareness of what classes they were being registered for. That investigation concluded that exceptional circumstances (e.g. conflicts between registration times and athletic travel) sometimes required athletic division personnel to register student athletes, but that a rather more serious problem lay in the fact that easy access to registration PINs allowed registration without advising. The committee concluded that third-party registration would always be possible, since there is no way to control what student athletes do with their PINs once they have them, but that it would be possible to ensure that student athletes (and all students more generally) at least received proper
advising in advance. Thus on October 19, 2011 the committee unanimously adopted the following motion:

MOVED: That the Faculty Athletics Committee ask the Academic Council to propose to the university administration the following change to the course registration procedure, that use of a student’s PIN not be activated to allow for registration until the student’s faculty advisor, department head or a dean has used his or her own Net ID login to verify that he or she has met with the student in person, issued the student’s PIN, and approved the student’s proposed course of study.

This motion was taken up for consideration at the Academic Council meeting of February 6, 2012, reconvened on February 27, and was moved and adopted by the council with slight modification. It is currently waiting approval of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs for inclusion in the Journal of Record.

b. Men’s basketball’s trip to Italy
The committee received faculty concerns that the men’s basketball trip to Italy in the summer of 2011 represented an extravagant expense in light of the university’s current fiscal difficulties. The committee responded by asking Athletic Director Eugene Doris for an explanation of the trip’s purpose and an account of its funding. The written response (see attached) and oral presentation from AD Doris led the committee to conclude that the purpose and funding of the trip were in order. Specifically, costs for the trip were split between an external sponsor and restricted funds which could not have been used for any university purpose other than men’s basketball travel. Accordingly, the committee took no further action.

c. N4A visit and report
Prior to its meeting of September 26, 2011, the committee met with representatives of the N4A, or National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics, who were on campus as part of their regular cycle of visits to Fairfield University. We had a cordial conversation with the N4A representatives, and AD Doris reported to the committee at a later meeting that the N4A visit resulted in a number of productive suggestions for implementation by the athletic division. The committee took no further action.

d. Triennial survey
In its meeting of February 17, 2012, the committee voted to approve a draft of its triennial survey of student athlete attitudes, a standing order of business for the committee. The survey had last been taken in the 2008/2009 academic year, with its results analyzed and discussed by the committee in the 2009/2010 academic year. The current 2012 survey (see attachment) was revised in response to committee discussion and feedback from the STAGS Council via Dean Dawn Debiase. As of the completion of this report, the survey has been administered to or scheduled for all fall and winter sports, while scheduling for spring sports is still pending.

7. Anticipated effects of these decision
With respect to Item 6(a), the committee does not expect that its actions will eliminate the problem of student athletes being registered by third parties. However, it hopes that administration implementation of its proposal will force student athletes to receive quality academic advising prior to registration, thus at least somewhat mitigating the effects of third party interference. It is unknown how long it might take the administration to implement the motion’s technical side, and a reasonable delay might be expected. I recommend that the committee revisit the issue for further consideration in the fall of 2012, to review administration progress on implementing this decision.

With respect to Item 6(d), the committee may not be able to consider complete survey results before summer recess. It is therefore likely that the committee will not draft a final report until the fall of 2012. I recommend that the committee distribute its final report to the Secretary of the General Faculty, the Academic Council, deans of relevant schools, and appropriate representatives of the athletic division.

8. Unfinished business

Several items appeared on FAC meeting agendas without being taken up for business. For these items, see Number 9 below. No items formally taken up for business remain unfinished.

9. Future agenda items
   a. Athletic Division mission and outreach
   b. Scheduling structure and time codes
      i. MWTh / TWF schedule
      ii. Women’s soccer practice schedules

   In regards to item (a): At the committee’s September meeting, members raised as a potential business item the relatively low regard with which some faculty members hold the mission of the athletic division, and suggested that the committee could work with the division to improve the division’s image among faculty and better communicate the division’s mission to the university community. In regards to item (b): Part of the committee’s handbook charge is “to review on behalf of the faculty proposed athletic schedules.” Members of the committee raised concerned about the impact of Fairfield’s MWTh/TWF schedule on athletic competitions, and raised particular concerns regarding women’s soccer practice schedules. The committee will be better situated to address these concerns in the fall, when complete results of the committee’s triennial athlete survey are available.
Appendix 1
Submitted to the FAC by AD Eugene Doris

The Men’s Basketball trip to Italy was financed in the following way. About half the cost was covered by contributions to men’s basketball and Fairfield Athletics – in other words, restricted funds and not University operating funds. The other half was covered by the trip sponsor (Basketball Travelers, Inc.). In exchange, Fairfield will play on the road next year at an opponent of the sponsor’s choosing. It usually is a quality opponent and it helps us with scheduling. We plan for and budget accordingly for a certain number of road games each year and having a quality opponent is beneficial to our ranking.

Foreign tours mean a great deal to every team that gets the opportunity. It was interesting to note that when our Women’s Soccer alumnae had a celebration for the 20th year of the program, one of the highlights they embraced was their foreign tour to New Zealand. The NCAA permits teams in all sports to travel overseas once in a four year period. Basketball Travelers, Inc. was our sponsor. As you can see from the chart below, many teams take advantage of this opportunity. And these were only the ones sponsored by Basketball Travelers, Inc. There are other sponsors and some teams choose to do this without a sponsor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011 TOUR TEAMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BYU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCSB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright State</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seattle Pacific</td>
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<td>UTSA</td>
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<td>Depaul</td>
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We have not travelled our Men’s Basketball team overseas since 1996. We take many factors into consideration before engaging in such an endeavor. Having a chance for our Men’s Basketball to play in Italy this summer was important for a number of reasons. Just to know our team can play and compete internationally means a lot. Having Fairfield prominently seen in an international setting helps us promote the University. Aside from encountering the other universities travelling at the same time, the number of people we encountered from the United States and other countries who were in Italy was overwhelming. And all asked questions about the University.

Of course it also is a wonderful opportunity for our players to learn. Because the basketball season covers both semesters, this is the only opportunity many of the players will ever get to experience what many of our students are able to do through our study abroad programs. The wonderful guided tours gave them (the players) a perspective on time, on history and the ability to understand different cultures. It was a marvelous experience for them.

From a practical standpoint, the trip allowed us to get an invaluable head start on competitive game experience and team unity under a new coach and new players. Many teams who have traveled on a foreign tour have credited the tour as a major
contributing factor to their post-season success. Connecticut Men & Women and Purdue Women won national championships the season following their foreign tours. While that is “pie in the sky” for us, Men’s Basketball did win a MAAC Championship the season after going to Spain in 1996-7. Aside from team bonding, experience and recruiting, we do have some players who are capable of professional basketball careers in Europe.

In conclusion, the trip had a purpose and the time was right for this program.
Appendix 2

Faculty Athletic Committee: FAC Triennial Survey 2012

Survey Type: Standard
Anonymous: Yes
Automatic On:
Automatic Off:
Due Date:
Minutes to take the Survey:
Attempts: 1
Switch: On - Visible

On Switch = 'On', Show:
Questions
Distribution of Answers

Switch = 'Submitted', Show:
Questions
Distribution of Answers

Switch = 'Results', Show:
Questions
Distribution of Answers

Directions: The Faculty Athletics Committee (FAC) wants to assess how you feel about the amount of time you commit to the varsity athletic program at Fairfield University. Please do NOT write your name on this survey, as we want your responses to be anonymous. There are no “right” or “wrong” answers; we just want to know your thoughts so please respond honestly and openly.

End of Survey Message: THANK YOU once again. Your response is invaluable.

Selected Curricular Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No Curricular Programs Selected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#1 Hours in competition Type: Numeric

On average, the amount of time you estimate you spend in competition (INCLUDING travel time), is how many hours per week?

#2 Hours in practice Type: Numeric

On average, how many hours per week do you estimate you spend on practice and on conditioning (e.g., weight training, working out) in-season?
#2 Hours in practice   Type: Numeric
On average, how many hours per week do you estimate you spend on practice and on conditioning (e.g., weight training, working out) out of season?

#3 Missed class time   Type: Numeric
On average, what is the number of 75-minute class periods you estimate that you miss due to athletics/athletics-related travel in-season? (Each “turbo” or one-day-per-week class is equivalent to two 75-minute class periods).

#3 Missed class time   Type: Numeric
On average, what is the number of 75-minute class periods you estimate that you miss due to athletics/athletics-related travel out of season? (Each “turbo” or one-day-per-week class is equivalent to two 75-minute class periods).

#4 Missed Exams   Type: Numeric
On average, what is the number of scheduled exams you estimate that you miss due to athletics/athletics-related travel in-season?

#4 Missed Exams   Type: Numeric
On average, what is the number of scheduled exams you estimate that you miss due to athletics/athletics-related travel out of season?

Please mark the following scale to indicate the degree to which you agree with the following statement:

#7 Time on Athletics   Type: Multiple Choice
In season, I feel that I am pressured to spend too much time on athletics.

Options:

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neutral
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree

Please mark the following scale to indicate the degree to which you agree with the following statement:

#8 Time on Academics   Type: Multiple Choice
In season, I feel that I am unable to spend adequate time on my studies.

Options:

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neutral
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree

Please mark the following scale to indicate the degree to which you agree with the following statement:

#9 Time on Athletics Type: Multiple Choice
Out of season, I feel that I am pressured to spend too much time on athletics.
Options:

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neutral
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree

Please mark the following scale to indicate the degree to which you agree with the following statement:

#10 Time on Academics Type: Multiple Choice
Out of season, I feel that I am unable to spend adequate time on my studies.
Options:

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neutral
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree

#11 Practice time Type: Short answer
Comment on your practice time. Is the time slot helpful or non-helpful to your studies? Please elaborate.

#12 Practice time Type: Short answer
Do you feel that practice time is always used efficiently? If not, what improvements could be made?

#13 Academics Type: Short answer
As an athlete what, if anything, would you like to see changed that would assist you in your studies?

#14 Academics Type: Short answer
Which aspects of your team or the athletic department are most helpful to you with regard to your studies?

#15 Professors Type: Short answer
In what way, if any, does your role as a student athlete affect your interaction with professors?

#16 Professors Type: Short answer
If you have a conflict with a professor with regard to your role as a student athlete (e.g. missing class or an exam due to a game) to whom can you speak to about this matter?

#17 Challenges Type: Short answer
What aspects of your experience as a student athlete pose the greatest challenges?

#18 Demographic Info Type: Multiple Choice
What is your sport?
Options:
- Baseball
- Field Hockey
- Men's Basketball
- Men's Cross Country
- Men's Golf
- Men's Lacrosse
- Men's Rowing
- Men's Soccer
- Men's Swimming
- Men's Tennis
- Softball
- Women's Basketball
- Women's Cross Country
- Women's Golf
- Women's Lacrosse
- Women's Rowing
- Women's Soccer
- Women's Swimming
- Women's Tennis
- Volleyball

#19 Demographic Info Type: Short text
What is your major(s)?

#20 Demographic Info Type: Multiple Choice
What is your graduation year?
Options:
2015
2014
2013
2012
Grad

#21 Employment Type: Short text
If you are employed, how many hours do you work during championship season?

#21 Employment Type: Short text
If you are employed, how many hours do you work during NON-championship season?

#22 Scholarships Type: Multiple Choice
What type of ATHLETIC scholarship do you receive? (check one)
Options:
1. Full athletic scholarship
2. Partial athletic scholarship
3. No athletic scholarship

#23 Scholarships Type: Multiple Choice
What type of ACADEMIC scholarship do you receive? (check one)
Options:
1. Full academic scholarship
2. Partial academic scholarship
3. No academic scholarship

#26 Question 26 Type: Multiple Choice
Do you receive need-based aid?
Options:
1. True
2. False

#27 Question 27 Type: Long answer
Is there anything else you would like to add about your athletic experience at Fairfield University?