Faculty Athletics Committee
Meeting Minutes
Walsh Athletic Center Conference Room
October 24, 2012
2-3pm

Attendees: Katsiaryna Bardos (Chair), Dawn DeBiase, Kathy Geiling, Chris Huntley, Sydney Johnson, Nicole O’Brien, Emily Orr, John Paladino, Amalia Rusu, Kris Sealey, Tim Talty

Meeting called to order at 2:05pm.

1. Introductions
   • All attendees introduced themselves

2. Announcements from Chair
   • Coach Sidney Johnson will be a guest today to speak about a faculty fellow program
   • No other announcements from Chair

3. Approval of Minutes
   • Minutes from previous meeting were unanimously approved without changes.

4. Remarks from Guests and Ex-Officio Members
   • From Kathy Geiling (for Eugene Doris) – Kathy provided a handout that detailed how our Division I sports teams are doing. Field Hockey team made the America East tournament. All other teams are in the process of qualifying for the MAC tournament.
   • From John Paladino – John provided an overview and update on our sports clubs (17 active clubs, including about 500 students; intramural sports has approximately 700 students). Some highlights include: (1) over the last 4 years, at least 1 equestrian athlete has qualified for nationals, (2) rugby has gained national recognition, (3) sailing program has established a stable facility at Captain’s Cove and competed in its first regatta, (4) women’s ice hockey has gone inactive.
     o Tim Talty asked about quicker access to club sports schedules. John said this is difficult because it is organized by officers at each school and is often subject to change or TBD (and is a work in progress).
     o Tim talked about the importance of club sports to prospective students and asked if there was a way the committee could do to help support the growth of club sports. John reported that the University currently allocates $150,000 to club sports, but that more personnel is required to keep up with its growth and promotion to prospective students. Katsiaryna Bardos suggested a Facebook page for clubs Emily agreed with that idea and also suggested Twitter (committee suggested to add this, as well as other ways to advocate/market club sports to the next meeting agenda). Katsiaryna also suggested inviting students to a meeting to provide feedback related to club sports. John agreed because an important component of club sports is based upon what the student-athletes want to get out of it.
   • From Dawn DeBiase (for Mary Ann Palazzi) – Dawn provided the following updates from Mary Ann: (1) Emails re: student-athletes missing class will be emailed out to coaches shortly, (2) a brunch for student-athletes who made Dean’s List was recently held, which included 91 students (1/4 of athletes). More than half have over a 3.0 GPA; (3) a handout was provided on the community services activities of some of our athletes.
Chris Huntley mentioned that having the list of community service activities for our athletes would be helpful for the annual report.

- From Dawn DeBiase for Stags Council – Dawn provided an update on the current activities of the Stags Council (a cross divisional group that discusses issues related to student-athletes). Some highlights include: (1) revamped mission, (2) a handout that highlights some recent accomplishments, (3) current focus is on ensuring that coaches are aware that academic advising is upcoming, and working with coaches to cultivate an open dialogue about academic advising since student-athletes listen to their coaches, (4) students won’t be able to register without PIN from their advisor.

5. Old Business
- Triennial Survey – Katsiaryna reported that no follow-up agenda items have emerged from the survey, and that there were no major red flags from the survey. The survey will be disseminated to students. Dawn requested the ability to share with Stags Council, and Chris said she is free to do so.
- Mentorship of Athletes – Coach Sydney Johnson and Kris Sealey led a discussion about establishing a structured mentorship program that includes faculty, coaches, and athletes based on Kris’ experiences with student-athletes in her classes and Coach Johnson’s experiences with Princeton’s Faculty Fellow Program. Some highlights include:
  - Institutionalizing a structure that has a faculty member or administrator matched with one of the sports teams. This faculty or administrative fellow would function in the following ways: (1) serve as an additional welcome for the student-athlete when they first get to campus; (2) host teams for a meet & greet, in coordination with coaches – Chris suggested holding something at the Fairfield beaches in August; (3) providing mentorship of student-athletes and coaches about academic advising; (4) attendance at some practices to build the relationship and establish trust with coaches and student-athletes; (5) meet with prospective students and families – Chris said they have begun to pilot this particular aspect and gave an example of a prospective baseball player; (6) some teams may have multiple faculty members depending on size.
  - Things to consider include: (1) determining coaches’ interest and buy-in of this type of program; (2) making this attractive to faculty by making it a legitimate service opportunity that can be highlighted for tenure and promotion; (3) marketing/advertising the faculty fellow program and how this fits in with the strategic initiative of the University – Chris suggested eventually creating a proposal to give to the President; (4) appropriately pairing faculty and teams/coaches; (5) ensuring that coaches and faculty fellow have an open/transparent dialogue throughout the relationship; (6) include captains of the teams as part of this process.
  - Chris provided a handout of events/activities that could be a part of the Faculty Fellows Program (Coaches Go To Class Day, Bring a Prof to Practice, etc.).
  - Coach Johnson is going to get a sense of whether coaches would be interested in this type of program and will come back to the committee with next steps.
- Athletics Division Mission & Outreach
  - Tabled for next meeting

6. New Business
- Tabled for next meeting

7. Adjournment
- Motion to adjourn was initiated by Kris Sealey and seconded by Chris Huntley at 3:05pm.