Members and Visitors Present

John Mulherin, Jake Simons, Gary Dartt, Charles Skewis, Chris Geyerman, Bruce McLean, Richard Rogers, Willie Burden, Susan Williams, Cathy Beene, Hank Schomber, Keith Roughton, Ashley Hart, Brant Berkstresser, and Sam Baker

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 22, 2004, meeting were unanimously approved.

Financial Update

Assistant Athletic Director for Business Lacy Needham reported that at this point in the fiscal year the Athletic Department is doing well. The spring student fee funds have been forwarded as has the Fall fees from East Georgia students. The coaches are still doing a good job of maintaining their budgets.

Schedule Approvals

Cathy Beene - Men and Women’s Tennis presented for approval revised schedules due to weather cancellations. Spring Women’s Soccer and Volleyball schedules were presented. Spring Track requested an exception to the three-day dead period before exams. This request was necessitated because of cancellation of the April 17 meet at Western Carolina. A split squad will participate at meets at Davidson and Appalachian State on April 24. Fall 2004 Women’s and Men’s Soccer schedules were presented for review. All presented schedules were approved.

Athletics Update

Sam Baker:

• The Committee received a report from new women’s soccer coach Ashley Hart. She expressed her pleasure on being at Georgia Southern. She inherited eight student-athletes from last year’s team and has currently signed eight for next year. She has been very pleased at her reception by the team. Coach Hart feels very positive about the future of Georgia Southern Women’s Soccer.
Brant Berkstresser, Athletic Trainer, gave a report of student-athlete injuries from 08-01-03 to 02-24-04. (report attached to original minutes)

Athletics Director Sam Baker provided an update on the plans for constructing the track/soccer stadium, renovation of J. I. Clements, and Iron Works. On February 19 three construction manager candidates presented to the committee with John Lavender & Associates of Statesboro being selected to build the facilities.

Also, the recent newspaper article containing Coach Erk Russell’s letter to the editor was discussed. Mr. Baker provided his insights into the matter.

Three policy manual matters were presented, discussed and approved. New items for inclusion in the Athletic Policy Manual pertain to gambling activities and drug and alcohol protocols. Also, the Athletic Policy Manual will be updated to contain the most current description of the duties and term of service for the Faculty/Athletic Representative.

Faculty Athletic Representative Richard Rogers provided the names of six Georgia Southern student-athletes who have been forwarded for consideration to receive Southern Conference Post-Graduate Scholarships. The six are Erin Martin (Volleyball), Katie Szeghalmi (Women’s Soccer), Stephanie McFadden (Women’s Track), Shawnica Hill (Women’s Basketball), Brandon Burnsed (Baseball), and Kirk Latibeaudiere (Men’s Soccer).

Soon a call will go out for applications or nominees for the Faculty-Athletics Representative position. The applicants then will be reviewed and a nomination will be forwarded for the approval by the Senate.

It is important that the next Faculty Athletics Representative continue to represent the values and interests of the faculty to Athletics. It is important that the faculty have confidence in the Faculty Athletics Representative. The Faculty Athletics Representative must work cooperatively with Athletics and understand the practical day-to-day problems that occur within the world of intercollegiate athletics.

**Southern Boosters Report**
John Mulherin reported the Annual Campaign will start next week in large part to meet the schedule for assigning tickets for the Georgia-Georgia Southern football game in September. Work continues to progress with the Capital Campaign.

New Business

The University Athletics Committee discussed and reviewed the credentials of the nominees for the 2003-2004 Male and Female Scholar-Athletes. The committee selected Erin Martin, Women’s Volleyball, as the female scholar-athlete and Derrick Butler from football as the male scholar-athlete.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 am. The next meeting is scheduled for March 25 at 8:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lanell Vanlandingham
Senior Administrative Secretary