The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Bev Graham, Chair.

Members and Visitors Present

Sam Baker, Jeff Blythe, Tom Buckley, Ron Core, Cynthia Frost, Chris Geyerman, Bev Graham, Kymberly Harris, Bruce McLean, Bill Levernier, Michael Moore, John Mulherin, Keith Roughton, Samantha Young.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting for January 29, 2009 were unanimously approved.

Introductions

Sam Baker:

- Introduced Men’s Tennis Head Coach, Justin Miles. Coach Miles gave an update on the team’s athletic and academic performances. He stated he focuses very heavily on recruiting international student-athletes. Currently 11 of the 13 student-athletes on the team are international students. The team has won the Men’s Team GPA Award 7 out of the 8 years he has been coaching at GSU. The team had a 3.32 GPA for fall 2008.

Financial Update

Jeff Blythe:

- Athletic Financial Report for January was distributed via email for review by the committee.
- Revenue continues to look good. Met the goal for men’s and women’s basketball ticket sales. Early baseball ticket sales look good.
- Expenses are in better condition than expected. Spring semester grant-in-aid expenses hit the books in January and were less than projected. Travel expenses are down because of the decrease in the cost of gas and the coaches remain conscience of costs.

Athletics Update

Sam Baker:

- Reminded members that baseball tickets for UAC members are ready to be picked up at the Ticket Office
- Southern Conference Athletic Directors met in January to focus on considering cost containment proposals. The conference CEO’s asked the AD’s to develop a
proposal for review that would save both the conference office and the member institutions money in fiscal year 2009-2010. The Cost Containment Proposal was presented for review and subsequently forwarded to the SoCon Executive Committee for review and approval. The number of teams attending SoCon Championship tournaments for 2009-2010 was cut (men’s and women’s tennis, softball, men’s and women’s soccer and volleyball) to four. Baseball will play their three game conference series in two days rather than three. Selected SoCon meetings were eliminated or to be conducted via conference calls. Coaches are asked to be more conscience of scheduling games in locations in close proximity to save traveling costs.

- The new softball facility is open and should greatly assist in recruiting.
- SoCon Basketball Tournament is next week, March 5-9 in Chattanooga.
- Baseball is off to a great start with a big win over #8 Georgia Tech on Tuesday.
- Football Spring Game on April 4 at 1:00 PM.
- Distributed a report of all student-athletes’ majors by sport. A lengthy discussion ensued.

NCAA Representative Update

Chris Geyerman:

- As previously outlined, Cost Containment continues to be the main focus of the Conference.
- The SoCon Graduate Scholarship Meeting is next week at the Basketball Tournament. Georgia Southern has presented a promising candidate for consideration.
- Reported to the UAC that allegations of a compliance issue in the men’s basketball program is currently being investigated by a committee comprised of Scott Pierce, Maura Copeland, Keith Roughthon and Chris Geyerman. A report will be made when the investigation is concluded.

Southern Boosters Report

John Mulherin:

- The name “Southern Boosters” has served the organization well for over 25 years. A name change to Georgia Southern University Athletic Foundation will take effect on March 3. It has been a two year process to determine the correct route to take on this matter.
- The annual Renewal Campaign begins March 17 and concludes on May 31.

New Business

- Male and female scholar-athlete nominees were discussed and then votes were cast. The male scholar-athlete is Mark Beville (soccer) and the female scholar-athlete is Jessica Geiger (basketball).
- The volleyball spring schedule was approved via email.
In an attempt to address some of the concerns brought up by Michael Moore pertaining to sports practice schedules and academic majors, the following was proposed: Sam Young will invite Dr. Amy Heaston to a SGA meeting to answer questions pertaining to academic advising for college athletes; Kymberly Harris will propose ways to collect information from the student athletes if such measures are necessary; members of the University Athletic Committee will do a very casual inquiry with faculty pertaining to scheduled practice sessions interfering with athletes enrolling in necessary classes for degree completion.

Old Business

- None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Lanell VanLandingham
Senior Administrative Secretary
Department of Athletics