Members and Visitors Present


Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 28, 2003, meeting were unanimously approved.

Financial Update

Lacy Needham presented the athletics financial review through September 11, 2003. The fall student fee revenue is above projections, which is good for the overall budget. However, at the current time, the Controller’s office is conducting a review of the summer student fees. It is believed that, perhaps, some of the deferred funds have not been transferred to reflect the summer school fees. The coaches are working hard to maintain proper oversight of their budgets, in particular, the equipment and travel line items.

Schedule Approvals

Cathy Beene distributed copies of the 2004 softball schedule. The schedule was previously approved by the UAC, however, there was one minor change to the schedule. The scheduled double-header on March 16 with the University of Tennessee in Knoxville has been changed to a single game. The March 17 contest in Cookville, Tennessee, with Tennessee Tech now being a double-header. No travel arrangements will be altered and there will be no impact to the budget.

The indoor and outdoor track schedules for 2003-2004 were reviewed and approved as presented.

Athletics Update

Sam Baker:

• Thanked the members of the UAC for their efforts in working on the NCAA Certification. This is a very important effort for the athletics department and the institution. It is very prudent for those involved to recognize that the report will be scrutinized in great detail and may
not fully appreciate all the good things that are going on within the athletics department. An example of this is how the NCAA liaison has scrutinized even the “Tentative Written Plan.”

- Announced that Brant Berkstresser was named the head athletic trainer. Brant joined the staff on September 2. In reality, the most senior member of the sports medicine staff is now Brandy Petty, who joined the department on July 1. So, with the new staff in place, there are opportunities to develop new efforts with the academic sports medicine program.

- On September 24 work began to lay the sod on the J.I. Clements playing surface. This has been a six-week project and, with the efforts of Paul Massey of Tifton Turf Farms, Georgia Southern should have one of the best playing surfaces anywhere in the country.

- The golf team is off to a tremendous start. Aron Price won both tournaments he entered this fall. The golf team finished first and third in their first two fall tournaments. This past weekend the team won the Pacific Invitational in Stockton, California, and that was without two of the team’s best players being able to attend.

**NCAA Update**

Dr. Richard Rogers distributed the latest graduation report. People have realized for several years that there are many flaws associated with the way this reporting is accumulated and calculated. For example, if an individual enrolls at Georgia Southern and transfers to another institution and graduates, Georgia Southern is, nevertheless, penalized for that transfer. The new NCAA efforts to address academic reform will see a change in the method of calculating the graduation rates which will appear next year.

The latest Georgia Southern report shows that student-athletes are still graduating at a rate higher than the regular student body. Of those who have exhausted their eligibility in this report, 88% graduated.

**Southern Boosters Update**

John Mulherin reported that Southern Boosters is off to a good start to Fiscal Year 2004. Since July 1, 200 members have renewed or joined the association. Work has begun on the Capital Campaign, as well as several special fund raising efforts for specific projects.
Old Business

Dr. Bruce McLean asked whether the NCAA violation report, which was distributed back in April, was appended to the minutes of the meeting for distribution to the Faculty Senate. Dr. McLean also asked when the description of the work of the UAC was going to be changed in the Faculty Handbook on the website.

In another matter, the athletics department is to provide a gender equity report to the UAC in November. With the current NCAA Certification project underway, it was decided that the committee would use the information from the Certification rather than create a new document. Also, at the next meeting, the athletics department will have completed the 2002-2003 EADA report and it will be provided to the committee at that time.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 30 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Baker
Athletics Director