UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS COMMITTEE
September 25, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Henry Eisenhart, Chair.

Members and Visitors Present

Cathy Beene, Robert Dunham, Henry Eisenhart, Chris Geyerman, Charles Glover, John Scott Harrison, Tom Kleinlein, Chris MacDonald, Britton McKay, Ed Mondor, John Mulherin, Marco Osorio, Keith Roughton, Ali Ruff, Rob Whitaker and Amy Zhang.

Guest Speaker

Mark Byington, Men's Basketball Head Coach

- When I first got here and saw that the team was struggling academically, I pulled them from practice and from work outs so they could focus more on academics. We increased study hall hours. We want them to know that we hold them accountable. I'm proud to report that the team's GPA for spring 2013 was the highest it has been in 17 years. We have a rule that the student-athlete must sit in the first three rows in their class room and they are not allowed to wear hats in class. There has been some resistance and a lot of early morning runs. We want them to care about academics. All the coaches go to the classes and check on the student-athletes to make sure they are in class and the rules are followed. I want them to know that education is important to me. We are striving to recruit student-athletes that are successful in the classroom and on the court. When we bring recruits on campus they are blown away. The President met with a recent recruit and his parents and he spent 45 minutes with them. They were very impressed that he would take the time to meet with them.
- TK asked that Mark speak about his interview process. Mark stated that he felt 100% comfortable. He spoke to the search committee the culture of how things are going to be done. He wants the student-athletes to have life skills when they graduate to help them be successful.
- John Mulherin asked when the first game will be and how can we help. Mark answered that the first game is November 8 and to fill the Hanner gym with fans.

Approval of Minutes

- The minutes of the August 28, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved.

Financial Update

- The budget was emailed to the committee for review. Please contact Jeff Blythe if you have any questions.

Schedule Approvals

Cathy Beene:

- None.
- The baseball 2014 schedule was sent for review and was approved via email. The schedule is in compliance with university and NCAA policies

SAAB President's Update

Marco Osorio:

- Distributed the agenda for the SAAB meeting tonight, September 25, 2013 at 8:00 PM in the Parrish Football Team Meeting Room.
- Each team helps the campus Holiday Helpers.
- TK stated that the name of the SAAB name will be changed to SAAC which is a more nationally recognized name.

Athletics Update

Tom Kleinlein:

- The first women's rifle competition against Wofford was held at The Citadel on Saturday, September 14. They lost by two shots. One of GSU's student-athletes had the highest score.
- Men's soccer had a big win last night in the second overtime.
- Women's soccer has some injuries and are struggling. Coach Brian Dunleavy is in his first year as head coach.
- Football had a good start to the season with two wins but a disappointment at Wofford last weekend. Got to keep the student-athletes motivated. Ticket sales are going well.
- Volleyball is unbelievable. They have won four tournaments. Coach Dustin Wood has done a great job and will be a guest speaker at the next UAC meeting. Volleyball has lost only 5 or 6 sets so far this season.
- Facilities updates: volleyball locker room is completed, the women's basketball locker room is almost complete and the men's basketball offices and locker room is nearing completion. The tennis courts' new score board has been installed and the football operations center construction is going well.
- By making the move up we can now see changes are coming and we can make decisions accordingly.

NCAA Representative Update

Chris Geyerman:

- NCAA Scholarships deadlines are approaching. The 2013 NCAA Post Graduate Scholarship is open now and the deadline follows the fall and spring sports. Walter Byers and Jim McKay Scholarship for the Sports Communications area. NCAA Ethnic and Minority Post Graduate Scholarship – deadline December 16. Must have a GPA of 3.2 or higher. We want to get more student-athletes recommended for scholarships.
- The Sun Belt Conference meetings are in October.
- Ali Ruff commented that the move up should help the chances of Georgia Southern student-athletes receiving a scholarship.

Athletic Foundation Report

John Mulherin:

- The fiscal year-end audit has been finalized. It shows that the organization raised nearly 5.7 million dollars last year. Very soon we will empanel a Benefits Review Committee that will compare ourselves with other SunBelt Conference institutions and help make sure we are offering a consistent level of benefits to our donors. We have already, and will continue to offer more experienced based benefits and need to include those in our overall review of donor benefits. There will probably be a change in parking due to us gaining additional access to areas and the creation of more premium venues. All recommendation from the review committee will be presented to the board of directors for approval.

- The University Alumni Association has recently implemented a free membership plan for all alumni. We currently offer a joint program with the Alumni Association and we think this new change will make that Young Alumni Program more attractive.

New Business

- The next UAC meeting October 30. The November meeting is on the 20th due to Thanksgiving being on the last week of the month.

Old Business

- None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lanell VanLandingham
Senior Administrative Secretary
Department of Athletics