Athletics Council End of the Year Report

1. List meeting dates
   a. September 14, 2014
   b. October 31, 2014
   c. December 5, 2014
   d. January 22, 2015
   e. February 12, 2015
   f. March 27, 2015
   g. April 25, 2015

2. Topics discussed

   a. Establishment of a roster and update periods for term expiration. The council did not have a membership roster. One was developed and expiration terms were added for each member (see attachment). During this process the Council learned of numerous vacancies for faculty, staff, and students. The relevant associations/councils were contacted and all vacancies, except for faculty, were filled.

   b. Membership selection process. It was unclear to the council how individuals were to be nominated and selected for membership. The Council spent time exploring the process with Dr. Jose Hernandez and the Faculty Senate. Eventually, application materials for faculty memberships were provided and shared. It was also clarified which university group should be approached for which nominations.

   c. Athletics Council Mission statement. The first order of official business was to clarify what the mission and purpose was for the council. Members were unclear about this, so the Chair/FAR searched through the materials provided by the previous FAR and found two mission statements. Through extensive conversations with the President of the Faculty Council, it was determined that the statement dated January 21, 2009 was the latest version.

   d. Member Involvement. Members consistently expressed a desire to be more involved with athletics, be better ambassadors for the department, and better support the departments’ mission. For example, there was a discussion how the Council might provide input and advice on required reports such as those by Title IX or how members might be utilized as advisors or communication conduits for athletics issues likely to be picked up by the media (such as the possibility of building a new stadium on campus, or coaching changes). A distinction was made between issues of communication and information vs. those of personnel changes. Clearly, due to the complexity and confidentiality of personnel changes, it would not be appropriate for the Council to be actively involved. To begin exploring how this could happen, each council member chose a university, investigated ways that these institutions athletics council and department of athletics engage with each other. Each member reported back and the dialogue continues.
e. **Conference Redesign.** At each meeting members received updates on issues related to conference redesign including autonomy and cost of attendance. Members had time to ask questions so as to better understand possible changes and options for execution of the new policies and how they might impact athletes.

f. **Strategic Planning.** This past year the Department of Athletics engaged in a strategic planning process. The Chair of the Council met with the firm individually and then the entire Council met with them as a group. Open and forthright conversations ensued. The Council looks forward to learning more about plan specifics in the fall.

g. **Graduation Success Rate (GSR).** Jason Linders presented on the Graduation Success Rate (GSR).

h. **Council Visibility.** The Council explored the possibility of being listed on the Athletics website, student athlete handbook, or listed on the programs for specific sporting events as a means of being more visible. Very quickly, the Athletics Council roster is now listed on the department’s website.

i. **Enhancing U.** Jodie Heinicka Libadisos gave a brief presentation of the ongoing Enhancing U activities.

j. **Exit interviews.** Jocelyn Fisher shared with the Council how exit interviews are conducted with student athletes. Athletics is looking to standardize their procedures and so they were looking for input and suggestions on how they might better improve their process and data collection. The committee made numerous recommendations.

3. **Future issues to be addressed:**
   a. There is a committee responsible for the academic success of athletes admitted on waivers or probation, chaired by Bob Sullins that might be better served if it becomes a subcommittee of the Athletics Council; this should be explored further.
   b. It was suggested that the Council explore the possibility of a joint meeting with the Title IX committee regarding overlap in reporting responsibility. Lori Rogovin who represents that committee indicated that she would take this issue to the Title IX committee.

Attach membership roster and mission statement
ATHLETICS COUNCIL ROSTER
2014-2015

CHAIRPERSON (FAR)
Julie Serovich – CBCS Dean (term expires 7/17; 1st term)

FACULTY (9 members)
Tim Boaz – Mental Health Law & Policy (CBCS) (term expires 5/15; 1st term)
Michael Bowen – Business (COB) (term expires 5/15; 2nd term)
William Cummings – Humanities (A&S) (term expires 5/17; 2 term)
Lori Roscoe – Communication (A&S) (term expires 5/16; 2nd term)
Rick Borghesi – Business (COB) USF Manatee/ Sarasota (term expires 5/15; 1st term)
*VACANCY
*VACANCY
*VACANCY

FACULTY ADMINISTRATOR (1 member)
Catherine Batsche – Associate Dean (CBCS) (term expires 5/16; 2nd term)

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF (3 members)
Tom Gordon – Psychology (A&S) (term expires 5/15; 2 term)
Danielle McDonald – Student Affairs (term expires 5/16; 1st term)
Jay Riley – Advancement/Marketing – Sarasota-Manatee (term expires 11/17; 1st term)

STAFF (3 members)
Yvonne Eisenhart – Philosophy (A&S) (term expires 5/15; 2 term)
Wendy Jennings – Business (term expires 11/17; 1st term)
Richard Blocker – Physician’s Assistant Department (term expires 11/17; 1st term)

STUDENTS (3 members – all terms expire after one year)
Roshard Williams – Arts and Sciences
Hunter Humes - Business
Daniel-John Sewell – Arts and Sciences

ALUMNUS (1 member)
Gene Haines (term expires 5/16; 2nd term)

EX OFFICIO (no term limits/ not voting)
Mark Harlan – Director of Athletics
David Owens – ADA Coordinator, Diversity, Inclusion & Equal Opportunity
Lori Rogovin Social Work (CBCS) Title IX Chair