The Athletic Council met on October 25, 2017.

III. Announcements:

a. Brad Edwards update on ICA

- Student-athlete academics is going well. We have about 500 student-athletes and the average GPA is 3.15 which is slightly higher than the average Mason student. We have the largest group on the A10 commissioner honor roll. This honor roll will change to a 3.0 which was recently voted on.

- Fall sports are underway. Women’s soccer is having a tremendous year earning the number three seed in the conference tournament. We will host the first game on Sunday. Men’s soccer is having a tough season, lots of injuries. Women’s volleyball has a first year head coach playing a tough conference schedule. Cross country championships are this weekend here and we are looking for a strong finish. Swim and Dive just started and the men beat Davidson and the women lost to Richmond. Men’s golf concluded with Eric Edwards having a strong season. Natalie Butler of women’s basketball and Otis Livingston of men’s basketball both earned 3rd team preseason conference honors.

- Personnel: We extended Dave Paulsen’s contract through 2022 as he is a good fit for us. We also extended many other head coaching contracts to include Andy Gerard, Peter Ward, Jessy Morgan, Joe Verbanic, Scott King, Steve Curtis and Ted Nagorsen. We introduced a new head wrestling coach recently, Frank Beasley who comes to us from NC State.

- Continue to work on basketball improvement for facilities and opened the renovation of cage gym. Thanks to university life and the RAC staff. It’s a great space for the teams. The men’s and women’s basketball locker rooms in Eagle Bank arena work will begin after the season.

- Also upgraded arena lighting and added video panels to the scoreboard as part of Learfield contract. Also renovating hospitality room.

- Brad spoke along with Craig Esherick to high level donors at a national leadership conference over the weekend.

- Men’s basketball season ticket sales are going well, at 98% renewal. Still need to fundraise more for basketball improvement. The department is working on a strategic plan.

b. D. Banville FAR update.

- Worked with gender diversity and well-being sub-committee to update the exit survey so that all S-As, not only the graduating/transferring students, could complete it electronically. 225 surveys were completed, almost 50% of student-athletes. All classes, levels of scholarships, genders and sports (minus men’s basketball) participated in the survey. The survey was divided in different sections such as academic support or sport performance. Each administrator received a report on their section and Brad Edward received an overall report of the survey results. The important thing now is to show S-As results so that they know their feedback are being considered. No exiting S-A asked to meet with the FAR but a few called and/or emailed her.

- The focus last year was to meet with the S-As and coaches. This year, the focus will be on faculty, and making them more aware of her role and this committee.

- Traveled with two teams in the Fall, Women VB to Fordham and Rhode Island, and Men Soccer to Philadelphia. She provided detailed on the itinerary and emphasized the fact that there is nothing glamorous about being a student-athlete.

- A-10 Missed Class Pilot study was done this fall. The Academic Support team took every student-athlete schedule and compared it to their fall class schedule to see what was missed. Very labor intensive but more accurate than procedure used in the past. Our numbers are lower than other A10 institutions mainly due to our location. We are going to work on making it better. Freshman miss the most classes and we will examine if we can get them enrolled earlier next fall. The pilot will continue this spring and will likely be more intense as there are more sports. This kind of data can be useful to increase our graduation rates.
c. Nena Rogers presented the student-athlete handbook. She indicated that it was a collaborative effort of all departments, both academic and athletics using best practices. Includes policies and procedures, and is a living and breathing document as it will be constantly updated to reflect changes. The content of the handbook is on our website as well.

IV. Committees – Charges, latest discussions, and Membership.
D. Banville reminds members of the Committee the make-up of each sub-committees, per the by-laws.
a. Governance and Commitment to Rules Compliance – The first meeting will be convened by Bob Baker and the members will then decide on a chair.
b. Academic Integrity – Janette Muir will convene the first meeting and the members will then decide on a chair.
c. Gender Diversity and Student Well Being – The first meeting will be convened by Pam Patterson and the members will then decide on a chair. B. Edwards asks if help can be provided for the strategic plan. He needs a metrics to measure the student-athlete experience. Pam Patterson will look into existing survey to see if data can be pulled. J Muir suggested to look into the Mason senior survey to see if data can be pulled from that survey or perhaps add a student-athlete section. Brad said we need the data by the end of the academic semester.

V. New Business
Brad to present in the spring semester to faculty senate.

Adidas – a lot of info still needs to be gained from FBI investigation but we are ok since we are not a procurement-type of basketball program but rather a developmental-type of program.

The Athletic Council met on January 24, 2018
III. Announcements:
a. Brad Edwards update on ICA
   • Winter sports are underway. Swim and Dive had a big home meet last weekend.
   • Otis Livingston for men’s basketball had a last minute shot that went out to 6.5million people, good for marketing Mason. This week has a full slate of events. Men’s basketball has VCU which will be sold out, we have held 2000 tickets for students. The men’s team is up and down, 15th youngest team in the country. We are building the team the right way with the right culture.
   • Women’s basketball is having their best season in decades. Good group of students to include two provost scholars. Their next game is girl scout day which will have a big crowd.
   • Track and field and men’s volleyball are home.
   • Fall academics look good so far. 168 deans list and 29 provost scholarships which is a 3.75 gpa or higher.
   • For infrastructure, the basketball improvement plan is coming along. The cage gym practice facility is open. The video board in the arena has enhanced game day atmosphere. It highlights student-athletes from different sports. The gameday locker rooms will be renovated this spring will be a $1.6million upgrade and will give women’s basketball locker room exclusivity.
   • Due to the case at Michigan State, Brad has asked for a full review of sports performance and athletic training. Orthopedic exams have transparency with athletic training. Background checks are done on all doctors and they go through the VA medical board. Julian added that athletics has been a good partner in title 9 with workshops. Frank said the whole university does it’s best to prevent bad things happening but they happen and the test is what to do next. We will do the right thing above everything else.
   • The First Pitch dinner will be held on February 2 to support the baseball program. We need to replace the scoreboard at Spuhler field.

b. D. Banville FAR update.
   • Traveled with women’s basketball to LaSalle, a good trip, small crowd.
Attended A10 meetings last week in Indianapolis along with NCAA meetings. Went at a student well being session which focused on sleep and mental health. Heard about some programs that have been used at Mason in the past.

The A10 Far meetings focused on the A-10 Missed Class Pilot study. Went to a session on the role of a FAR. Goal this year will be to focus on faculty, and making them more aware of her role and this committee. Will try to meet with department chairs. The A10 will have an internship in honor of retiring St. Joe’s AD Don DeJulia.

c. Kelly Webb

Attended NCAA convention but information typically is geared more toward power 5 conferences. There will be legislation voted on in April. It’s an autonomy proposal. Will look at increasing stipends from $45 to $75.

Attended Senior Women Administrator meeting. It was “Diversity and Inclusion” programming and how, as a conference, we can be more in tune. A10 has very diverse institutions, and best practices in hiring was discussed. Talked about sexual assault and mandated training for all institutions.

IV. Committees – Charges, latest discussions, and Membership

a. Governance and Commitment to Rules Compliance
B. Baker chair of the committee, not met yet.

b. Academic Integrity –met January 23. Nena presented travel policy to focus on health, safety and well being, dining and lodging. Addressed study hall on the road, created clear policies, proctoring exams. Nena will bring recommendations to senior athletic staff.

c. Gender Diversity and Student Well Being
not met yet

V. New Business
none

The Athletic Council met on April 18, 2018

III. Announcements:

a. Brad Edwards update

ICA Academics look good. Fall 3.15 cumulative GPA by the student-athletes, mirrors fall and spring last year. Student disciplinary issues are down. Very encouraged by outcomes and risk management.

ICA is undergoing a very comprehensive internal audit lead by Ed Dittmeyer. It will look at journal entry money into accounts, equipment, look at general policies and procedures. It will help us get better and uncovers things that we are not doing well. Audit is from Mason but auditors is from Baker Tilly. Have some athletic background. Not sure when it will wrap up, possibly by end of fiscal year.

Sport report: We are finishing spring sports. Women’s basketball had tremendous season, best in program history. Made WNIT and won a game. A10 Player of the year was Natalie Butler and rookie of they year was Nicole Cardano. We had a spike in attendance. Butler drafted 3rd round WNBA. Team had two provost scholars.

Men’s basketball had highest A10 finish, 5th place seeding. Encouraged about the future.
• Wrestling had a good year under first year head coach Frank Beasley. Three wrestlers made NCAA, most in a few years.
• Baseball currently in 6th place in conference, Head coach Billy Brown won his 1000th game. Patriot Club baseball picnic will be held April 29.
• Golf, Eric Edwards posting good performance, heading to A10 championships.
• Women’s lacrosse currently in 5th place in A10; Erin Donahue rookie of the week
• Rowing, varsity 8 had a strong race last week, host Mason invite this weekend.
• Softball, only partially funded. Will move aid from cheerleading to softball.
• Men’s tennis played a tough schedule, A10 championships coming up.
• Women’s tennis, one of the youngest teams in the nation.
• Track and Field both men and women finished 2nd “Indoor”. Many individual great performances and team relays. Hosting Outdoor A10 championships in May.
• Men’s volleyball won EIVA conference and tournament is tomorrow. Had an amazing year. Brian Negron, selected player of the year, Jay Hosack coach of the year.
• Basketball improvement: Locker room projects out to bid, start construction in next two weeks.
• Collaborated on Victims rights walk/run with the university. Supports memory of Aimee Willard endowment.
• Dr. Cabrera will visit with athletic department next week and senior salute is May 7
• Debi Corbatto reviews athletic training and risk in sports medicine (see Attachment A).
  ▪ Concussion management: comprehensive program, 16-page long. Approved by NCAA, first school in A10 to go through the approval process. Not too many changes with what was already done.
  ▪ Exertional Rhabdomyolysis, policies are in the manual. Have explicit language banning physical punishment.
  ▪ Student-Athletes (SAs) contact with specialists and primary care physicians: have an amazing group to help us with current issues. We were part of creating a best practice for formalizing medical exams. Physicians have background checks. All treatments are held in public areas and offered medical chaperones. SAs can decline. All invasive exams are referred out. Mandate report ethical report within 24 hours of event occurring.
  ▪ Policy is shared with coaches. It is also on gomason.com
  ▪ Janette Muir Questions: sub point 6, immediate report to AD, what actually gets reported? It’s spelled out in the full document. Will report on ethical or unprofessional behavior.
  ▪ Kevin McNamee reviews risk management within the athletic department: (See Attachment B)
    ▪ Areas that are of particular concern to us as athletic entity. Looked at Academics, conference, university, facilities, environmental threats, competitiveness, external affairs, infrastructure/economic resources.
    ▪ The two top priority for University risk management are “Compliance and Governance” and “Student-Athletes health and well-being”.

b. D. Banville FAR update.

• Traveled with women’s basketball in January (vs LaSalle) and men’s basketball in February (vs Fordham). Did a same-day trip with women’s Lacrosse in March (vs GW). Always good learning experience and opportunity to get to know the SAs and for them to get to know me.
• Prepared a handout that explains the role of the FAR for faculty members. Shared at Department chair meeting in February and will share it at the Faculty senate next week. (see Attachment C)
Went over the athletic council webpage with K. Webb. Had not been touched in a few years (minutes, roaster of the committee, by-laws, etc.). B. Edwards and D. Banville questions if this is the best location for this committee (vs Provost website). D. Banville will verify with Frank Neville as to where this should be housed. Bob baker suggests that if it moves away from the Athletic Department website, to have a link to it as it is likely where some people would look for to find information. B. Edwards indicates that he is OK with having it on the AD website and would make sure that someone is responsible to update it if it is decided that it is the best place for it.

Through the A10, there is an ongoing project to determine the number of classes missed by SAs. Thank Nena and her team on helping to compile the hours. The process of compiling the data is still being refined. Mason is on the lower side compared to other schools in the A10.

c. Kelly Webb

  • Legislation update is on hold, many are under current review.

IV. Committees – Charges, latest discussions, and Membership

  a. Governance and Commitment to Rules Compliance

    • Bob baker: Today’s presentations by D. Corbatto and K. McNamee were discussed. K. Webb distributed a report compiling the violations for the year. Available if interested. No major violations.

  b. Academic Integrity – did not have another meeting. No news is good news, J. Muir reported.

  c. Gender Diversity and Student Well Being

    Met on Monday, focused on updating the survey; only minor changes. Will give SAACs executive team a chance to look at it as well. Goal is to send it out by April 30 with deadline for graduating students of May 7th in order to get their cords, rest of SAs will be 5/18. Exiting SAs (graduating, transferring, stopping participation) will have a chance to meet one-on-one or arrange phone conversation.

V. New Business

None

ATTACHMENT A

Addressing Risk in Sports Medicine 2018

George Mason University – Intercollegiate Athletics

1. Concussion Management

   a. NCAA approved protocol based on recommended Best Practices and 5th International Consensus Conference on Concussion in Sport (Berlin, 2016)

   b. First Atlantic-10 school to be approved – This is our second year of submission.
2. Exertional Rhabdomyolysis
   a. NCAA recommendation to follow their best practice document has been fully integrated into our sports medicine and sports performance protocol.
   b. Provides transition periods during intake.
   c. Explicit language banning the use of conditioning sessions for physical punishment.
3. Student-Athlete Safety and Well-Being
   a. Extensive investigation and discussion about appropriate policy to protect student-athlete from any situation such as the occurrence at Michigan State.
   b. NCAA did not have a formal recommendation.
   c. We want our athletes to feel safe, so we adopted policy that:
      i. Physicians have full background checks prior to working with our student-athletes.
      ii. All treatments/examinations are held in public areas when possible. Each student-athlete, regardless of gender, will be offered trained medical chaperones for all treatments/examinations/EKG’s/physicals behind closed doors. The student-athlete may decline this offer and if they do so, their choice will be dictated into the medical record for that visit.
      iii. Chaperone’s principle responsibilities are to protect student-athletes by observing examination and being prepared to raise any concerns about a provider’s behavior or actions, reassure or comfort student-athletes, participate in medical recordkeeping, and be sensitive and respect the student-athlete’s dignity and confidentiality.
      iv. No internal obstetrical, gynecological, breast or digital rectal examinations/treatments are conducted at the athletic training room. All invasive medical examinations are to be referred to outside specialist/provider. This does not preclude obtaining a rectal temperature in order to diagnose/treat heat stroke or hernia exams during pre-participation physicals or clinic. Should the need arise for one of those procedures; it will be conducted with a medical chaperone in attendance.
      v. Mandates report of any ethical or profession violations within 24 hours to Sr. Associate AD for Performance, Well-Being, & Risk Management.
      vi. Immediate report to Athletic Director and refer to Compliance, Diversity, and Ethics Title IX Coordinator for investigation.
      vii. Affirmation that George Mason University supports a positive student-athlete development model through respect and sportsmanship. Each student-athlete should be afforded a reasonably safe environment protected from personal endangerment such as abuse (physical, sexual, emotional), assault, hazing or harmful punishment. At no time shall a member of the coaching staff or sports medicine staff engage in such behaviors that would endanger the health and safety of a student athlete.
      viii. George Mason University Sports Medicine staff has the unchallengeable authority to cancel or modify a workout for health and safety reasons, as he or she deems appropriate. A member of the George Mason Sports Medicine staff is empowered and protected when reporting events thought to endanger a student-athlete or in inflict with maintaining a safe environment during athletic activity.
George Mason University

Athletic Department Risk Environment

ACADEMICS

Failure for a team to achieve NCAA APR score of 930.

Failure for student-athletes to achieve a 4-year Federal Graduation Rate at a rate higher or equal to students generally.

Failure to provide adequate academic support services.

Failure to have systems in place to prevent an academic ethics breach.

CONFERENCE

Membership landscape affiliation.

A-10 private institution enrollment and demographics.

Need for a substantive media rights agreement to enhance SGR efforts.

UNIVERSITY

Shared vision and commitment.

Creative collaboration.

Ratio of institutional support to ICA self-generated funds.

FACILITIES

Improved competitive facilities.

Controls, access and management of practice times in non-ICA facilities.

Life expectancy of EagleBank Arena.
ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS

NCAA reform and autonomy.

Governmental intervention.

Pending litigation.

COMPETITIVENESS

Inability of Men's Basketball to qualify and advance in the NCAA Tournament.

Failure to fund Men's Basketball for competiveness.

Failure to provide adequate funding for athletic scholarships, salaries and operating to provide ability for all sports to be competitive in the A-10.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Competition for entertainment dollars and fan experience.

Failure to grow donor base.

Lack of adequate staffing for solicitation and cultivation of donors.

Failure of outsourced initiatives to succeed.

Failure to capitalize on complex location and market potential.

INFRASTRUCTURE/ECONOMIC RESOURCES

NCAA compliance breach.

Failure to monitor the Well Being and Health of student-athletes and staff.

Failure to address adequate salary structure for coaches and support staff.

Failure to address the cost-of-living/unaffordability of Northern Virginia.
George Mason University has over 500 student-athletes engaged in over 20 different sports, representing us in intercollegiate competitions while pursuing their college degrees. Per NCAA requirement, the university President appoints a Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) to represent the institution and its faculty in the relationship between the NCAA and the local campus. While each institution determines the role of their FAR, the Faculty Athletic Representative Association (FARA) identifies three areas of involvement: Student-Athletes well-being, Academic Integrity, and Institutional Control. The FAR has therefore a unique role of representing both academic and athletic interests.

At Mason, the FAR:
- Serves as a liaison between the institution and the athletics department, and also as a representative in A-10 conference and NCAA affairs;
- Ensures that Mason establishes and maintains the appropriate balance between academics and intercollegiate athletics;
- Promotes understanding of sports and their relationship to the educational and ethical commitment of George Mason University;
- Serves as Chair of the University's Athletic Council, and provides oversight and general administration to the sub-committees within the Athletic Council, including being actively involved in the assurance of the academic integrity of the Athletic program and in the maintenance of the welfare of the student-athlete.

How to support Student-Athletes in their pursuit of excellence on and off the court/field/pool/track/course?
- Faculty may receive inquiries about mid-semester progress for student-athletes. Sharing information about student-athletes with their athletic and academic advisors in this way is allowed under FERPA regulations; this feedback is taken seriously by advisors, and can be vital in supporting student success.
- One of the most frequent challenges faculty encounter in supporting student-athletes comes in providing accommodations for course work or examinations that students need to complete that is affected by their competition schedule. Students are encouraged to consult with faculty well in advance of these events, and faculty may consider options such as
  - asking students to complete course work ahead of time;
  - asking students to complete course work by a new deadline;
  - asking students to complete exams on the Mason campus, at a reasonable time before or after the athletic event, using the university testing center if needed;
  - asking students to complete course work or exams on the road, using a testing center at the institution they are visiting if needed.

Questions or concerns about how to support student-athletes can be directed to the Mason FAR:

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04/18/18