October 16, 2019 Meeting

I. Announcements:
   a. Brad Edwards – update on ICA
      • Brad introduces the newest member of their executive team, Zack Bolno, who
        will be in charge of External Affairs and Communication. He is tasked with
        building the Mason brand regionally and nationally in the hope to boost self-
        generated revenue. Brad yields the floor to Zack who introduces himself further
        and talks about some of his goals.
      • Brad provides an overview of academic and athletic achievements.
      • The renovation of the Eagle Bank Arena locker rooms is moving forward. The
        cost is estimated at $1.2 Million and so far $1M has been collected with the
        reminder having been pledged. Mason has authorized to go forward with the
        project. This renovation is necessary partly to ensure that the Women
        Basketball Team isn’t force to vacate their locker room every time there is a
        special event in EBA. It will also provide an overdue needed update.
      • Brad shares how Debi Corbatto and her team of athletic trainers were able to
        help a student-athlete (SA) who was suffering from a heat stroke. The protocol
        was followed and the SA was kept in the cold tub until it was safe to send him
        with the paramedics.
      • The operational budget of all the teams, except basketball, has not seen an
        increase in 10 years. The AD is therefore looking at expending the budget to
        allow for a needed increase.
      • Brad is scheduled to talk to the Faculty Senate in December and is looking for
        suggestions on what would be interesting for faculty to hear. Dr. McDowell
        suggests talking about the return rate, by faculty, of the progress surveys that
        are sent to faculty teaching SAs at mid-term.
   b. Dominique Banville – update on work done since last meeting
      • The efforts to share the role of the FAR with the faculty at the Faculty senate
        were somewhat changed because of the lack of time due to a full agenda.
        Unfortunately, Dominique could not attend the following meeting so a handout
        was distributed. She will follow-up with the secretary of the senate to see if the
        handout can be sent to the entire faculty.
      • At the last meeting, it was noted that the webpage for the athletic council
        needed to be updated and since it resides under the Athletic Department, it was
        also questioned if this is where it should be hosted. Dominique asks the
        Governance and Commitment to Rule Compliance sub-committee to look into
        this matter and issue a recommendation for the next meeting.
      • Furthermore, when looking at the description of the charge of this committee
        on the Faculty Senate webpage, it was determined that the charge, as
        described, is not an accurate reflection of the work of the committee. The
        Governance and Commitment to Rule Compliance sub-committee will also look
        in this matter and will produce a draft of the charge that will be presented at
        the next meeting for a formal motion. The charge will then be submitted to the
        Senate for its approval.
- For the two prior topics, Dominique will inquire with her A-10 peers at the upcoming FARA Conference how they function at their institution in terms of such committee.
- Based on a conversation with Nena, Dominique proposes that the Gender-Diversity and Student Well-Being sub-committee works on a survey that would be sent to SAs during the academic year to check on their well-being. She also asks that the committee looks at shortening the end-of-the-year survey as its length create a high percentage of SAs not finishing the survey.
- As for the Academic Integrity sub-committee, its members will be asked to look at a policy for online courses.

II. Committees – Charges, latest discussions, and Membership
   a. Governance and Commitment to Rules Compliance
      i. The members of this committee will be: Brad Edwards, Frank Neville, Bob Baker, Kelly Webb, Ana Stoehr, Tim Sherrange, Dominique Banville
   b. Academic Integrity
      i. The members of this committee will be: Janette Muir, Nena Rodgers, Ana Stoehr, Delton Daigle, SA representative, Dominique Banville
   c. Gender-Diversity and Student Well Being
      i. The members of this committee will be: Pam Patterson, Nena Rodgers, Jacqueline McDowell, Amanda Caswell, Sydnee Wells, Dominique Banville

January 22, 2019 Meeting

I. Announcements:
   a. Brad Edwards – update on ICA
      - Brad provides an overview of the academic and athletic achievements;
      - The City of Fairfax will sign a proclamation on January 22, 2019 declaring February “Mason Month”;
      - The baseball team will have its annual fund raiser “First Pitch Dinner” on February 8 at the Country Club of Fairfax. It will feature Charlie Slowes, and Dave Jageler, Radio Play-by-Play announcers for the Washington Nationals and will be moderated by Phil Wood, Radio Host, Nats Talk Live;
      - Lauren Byrd has been hired to replace Jennifer Montgomery as the Director for Advancement. The position was modified and realign to have a better vertical alignment with the Patriot Club;
      - The renovation of the locker rooms for Men and Women Basketball are practically complete. The locker room are now as good as any top Division I program in the country;
      - An additional athletic trainer is in the process of being hired to meet the National guidelines and ensure student-athletes welfare and well-being.
      - A comment was made by a member of the committee regarding a recent promotion at the Men Basketball that focused on Super Hero characters. The marketing centered exclusively on male Super Hero and Zack Bolno, Deputy AD, External Operations, and Brad assured the members of the committee that they had received numerous comments about it and that it would be rectified for the next time this promotion happens.
      - Another question related to the “Sideline Coach” program offered by the men’s basketball and the possibility of having it extended to the women’s program as well.
Brad explained that the “Sideline Coach” program is actually an initiative from Coach Paulson and while Coach Milleson have a somewhat similar program, the selection is different (suggested member of the faculty from the student-athletes vs at-large invitation).

b. Dominique Banville – update on work done since last meeting
   • She attended the FARA Conference in Baltimore in November where the A10 FAR used the opportunity to all gather and conduct business during breakfast and lunch meetings. Examples of topics discussed at the conference focused on academic integrity, the proposal to add five independent members to the NCAA Board of Governors, the basketball reform initiative, and the new Transfer process that removes the institution from the equation. Within the A10 FAR meetings, we talked about academic misconduct, exchanged information regarding Athletic Council (or like committee), and update on the “Missed Class” project.
   • Dr. Banville also had two conference calls in January with the other A10 FARs where the Missed Class project was further discussed. The deadline for the A10 Post-graduate awards was also shared. We finally talked about the role we have on our campus and some of the best practices we have implemented based on discussions with other FARS.
   • Dr. Banville will travel with the Men Basketball team on February 5-6 to Richmond and with the Women Basketball team on February 20-21 also to Richmond. She is also looking to do a one-day trip with the Baseball team.

II. Committees – Charges, latest discussions, and Membership
   a. Governance and Commitment to Rules Compliance
      i. Per our discussion at the last meeting, the committee was charged with proposing a new charge for the Council. A motion was put forward from the committee as followed:

      Change the current charge of the Athletic Council “To act in an advisory capacity to the Vice President for Student Affairs in all matters pertaining to intercollegiate and intramural athletics” to the following:

      “To act in an advisory capacity to the President in all matters pertaining to Intercollegiate athletics. The Council provides general review of the policies and operations of the University’s athletic program with primary focus on academic integrity and student-athletes well-being. The Council provides the opportunity to involve faculty, administration, students, and other concerned groups of the University. The Council assists with educating the university community about intercollegiate athletics.”

      • The motion passed unanimously

   b. Academic Integrity
      • The committee met and discussed the need to develop a policy limiting the number of online classes any student-athletes would be allowed to take in any given semester.
      • Future topic of discussion will also involve the need for a policy (likely university-wide) related with transfer students and their academic standing if their GPA falls below a certain point. Currently, students that start their schooling at Mason benefit from a longer “grace period” than transfer students because of their higher status.
c. Gender-Diversity and Student Well Being

- The committee worked during the Fall semester on a short survey that was designed to check on student-athletes early on into the academic year about issues mainly related to well-being within their team. After further discussion with the Athletic Department leadership, it was decided to put the project on hold until they complete their analysis of a platform available from a third party that offers more possibilities for immediate interactions. A committee member asked if the data gathered by the third party would only be used by Mason or if they would use it for their benefit as well. Brad answered that the data collected would be compared with the data that they collect from other institutions participating in their platform and therefore we could assume that our data would be used by them as well. The committee member caution about this kind of data sharing based on the recent security breaches in companies like Google and Facebook.

April 16, 2019 Meeting (Pending approval of the minutes from the member of the Athletic Council)

I. Announcements:

a. Brad Edwards – update on ICA

- Brad introduces to the group Lauren Byrd who has been hired as the Director for Advancement. The position has been modified and realigned to have a better vertical alignment with the Patriot Club;
- He reminds everyone that the Green/Gold Celebration (formally known as the Senior Salute) will be held on May 7, 2019 at Eagle Bank Arena with the doors opening at 5 pm and the program starting at 6 pm. The event is designed to recognize the seniors, and academic and athletic achievements of all Student-Athletes (SAs);
- Brad provides the highlights of the athletic achievements for Spring; noticeably, for a second year in a row a Women Basketball Patriot has been named the “A-10 Player of the Year” in Nicole Cardaño-Hillary. Also, for a second time in three years, Mason Men claimed the A-10 Indoor Track Championship;
- Two assistant-coaches in the Men’s Basketball program, Dane Fischer and Aaron Kelly have obtained main coaching positions respectively at William & Mary and Catholic University. Searches are going one to replace them;
- Academically, it is expected that SAs will exceed, once again, the university average in terms of GPA, and graduation rate;
- The Sexual Assault Prevention Training required by the NCAA has been completed with 100% compliance from staff and SAs.

b. Dominique Banville – update on work done since last meeting

- The A-10 FARs continue tracking data for missed classes. We now have a few semesters of data which will allow us to track trends across the conference and more specifically at Mason. This will be a summer project for Dr. Banville;
- The last conference call of the academic year is scheduled for
- In collaboration with Nena Rogers and Kelly Reinke, student-athletes will be identified for the A10 Graduate award and one recipient will be selected.
- Dr. Banville traveled with the Men’s BB team on February 5-6 to U of Richmond and on March 1-2 with the Women’s BB team to Lasalle. These trips are always a good way to connect with SAs, see their routines on the road, and insure they have time to perform academic work.
• She also attended the Women’s BB banquet on Sunday April 14, 2019.
• She will contact the M/W Tennis coach and W Swim team coach to establish a time where she can meet with the team to administer a NCAA Goal Survey. The deadline to return the surveys is June 1st.

II. Committees – Charges, latest discussions, and Membership
   a. Governance and Commitment to Rules Compliance
      • The sub-committee had no business to report
   b. Academic Integrity
      • The policy regarding online classes has been drafted and will be distributed to the committee members for review and eventually approval by the Athletic Council;
      • Discussion continues related to transfer students and students who bring in a number of AP/IB credits. The way the current academic policy is written, students that start their schooling at Mason and struggle in their year benefit from a “grace period” than transfer students who are identified in the system with a more advanced status and become under academic probation immediately rather than being under warning;
      • We will be looking at ways to get International students earlier on campus during the Summer to help them familiarize themselves with their new environment.
   c. Gender-Diversity and Student Well Being
      • The End-of-the-Year Survey is being ready for distribution to all SAs. The survey will be distributed via Qualtrics. Exiting SAs (graduating, transferring, or stopping participation) will be offered to meet in person with the FAR for any additional feedback they want to provide about their experience as a SA at Mason;
      • Brad was asked about the status of the acquisition of a software (Real Recruit) that allows SAs to provide real time feedback of their experience. It is still in the process of being vetted by Mason higher administration personal. Other institutions within the A10, the Commonwealth of VA and more broadly within Division 1 schools are using the software and report positive results. Representatives of the company will be invited to make a presentation to all A10 Athletic Directors to determine their interests.

III. New Business
   • Dr. Banville asks Kelly Reinke if there are any legislation currently under vote that will impact this committee. She mentions that in all likelihood Legislation 2018-30 will be adopted. This legislation will require every institution to conduct an equity, diversity and inclusion review at least once every five years and provide written confirmation of completion to the national office. Each institution will decide how this review will be conducted. She suggests that the Gender, Diversity, and Well-Being sub-committee could have this review added to its charges.