The Athletic Council met three times: in person on October 23, 2019 and February 6, 2020, and virtually on April 7, 2020. Each meeting has a similar pattern where Brad Edwards, Asst. Vice-President and Director of Athletics provides an overview and update on the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (ICA) related to personal update, academic, and athletic achievements, and projects ICA is working on. The Faculty Athletic Representative, Dr. Dominique Banville then provides an update on activities/work perform in her role. If any business was conducted within the sub-committees and action items are needed, the members of the council are then invited to provide feedback or vote on specific motions.

Some of the notable elements share this past academic year by AD Edwards are:

- Patriots recorded its highest single-year Graduation Success Rate (GSR) with a 90% overall and eight teams posted a 100% 4-year score. GSR is measured as the proportion of full-time, scholarship Student-Athletes (SAs) who graduate from the institution within six years.
- Men’s basketball won the Open Cayman Classic, a first regular-season tournament championship since 1993-1994
- Fifty-five SAs received an endowed scholarship. These funds collectively provide as much as $5 million in scholarship and/or operational expenses for Mason Athletics programs each year
- The Adidas partnership was renewed for five-year.
- Elmar Bolowich was named head coach of the men’s soccer team.
- Men’s swimming and diving won the Athletic 10 Championship
- A record of 54 SAs was awarded the Peter N. Stearns Provost Scholar-Athletes Award for their academic achievement. To earn the award, SAs must have completed at least 38 credits hours at Mason and obtain a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or better.

Related to COVID-19:

- All contests were canceled on March 12;
- Financially will receive significantly less money from NCAA/A10.
- NCAA will allow Spring 2020 SAs one more year of eligibility. Implications of having Seniors (n=16-20) return is complex. While not all SAs received partial or full scholarships, it still implies financial support when traveling, food, equipment/apparel, academic support, and sports performance infrastructure (Strength & Conditioning, nutrition, medical support, mental health, athletic trainers, locker room space, etc.). If all were to return it would be like adding a new team into the system.
- Many things to consider and data is being collected to determine what is best for the university and SAs.
- The first priority is to have the seniors SAs graduate.
- The impact on the incoming class is also unknown.
Some of the notable elements share this past academic year by FAR Banville are:

- Met with interim President Anne Holton at the beginning of her term to inform her of the role and responsibilities of the FAR;
- Participated in A-10 FARs Conference Calls;
- Attended the D1 FAR Institute held in conjunction with the FARA Conference as a representative of the A10. The event was held in Bellevue, WA November 6-9, 2019;
- Attended the A-10 Winter Join meeting held in Philadelphia January 30-31 2020;
- Traveled with Women Soccer, and Men and Women basketball;
- Met with Tim Sherrange and Tom Butler from the Registrar’s office to learn more about the certification process, track ‘Change of grades’ for SAs, and how to track an AY GPA to determine A-10 Commission Honor Roll;
- Related to COVID-19
  - Conference calls to discuss the impact of the new grading policy on SAs and its implementation with various support staff such as Nena Rodgers and her team (academic support), Kristi Giddings (Compliance), Tim Sherrange (Registrar);
  - Provided Mason academic policies modifications to Jill Redmond (A-10 Conference Office) as requested;
- Sought and received self-nominations for A10 Post-Graduate Award. The name of Mason winner has to be communicated to the Conference Office by May 1. A virtual meeting was held on 4/16/2020 with AD Brad Edwards, and Senior Women Administrator Dr. Debi Corbatto to select Mason recipient.

Sub-committee Business

- Academic Integrity – Online Course Policy for Student-Athletes (See Appendix A)
- Gender Diversity and Student Well-Being - The sub-committee was consulted with regards to the end-of-the-year survey and the need, or not, to conduct it considering the current situation. The decision was made to create a modified version of the survey to provide an opportunity for all SAs to provide feedback on their academic year.

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Dominique Banville, Faculty Athletic Representatives on April 16, 2020
Online Course Policy for Student-Athletes

As the University begins to expand online coursework at a higher rate, the Athletic Academic Resource Center (AARC) seeks to ensure that student-athletes have the opportunity to utilize this course structure for coursework that is degree applicable.

Due to the independent nature of online classes, the AARC has created the following policy in order to ensure that student-athletes who are enrolled in online classes are still provided with the structure needed to be successful.

The following policy was developed and approved by the Athletic Council’s Academic Integrity Subcommittee:

I. Each week, a student-athlete must complete 1.5 study hall hours for every 3 credits of online coursework they are registered for.

   A) This applies to ALL online courses, including those that are only offered online and have no face-to-face option.

   B) This excludes:

      a. Internship and practicum coursework

      b. Hybrid courses

      c. Independent study/research

II. Exceptions/Modification

   A) Students may be eligible for a modification to the 1.5 hours of required study hall hours. Coordinators have the ability to make this decision based on a student-athlete’s past academic performance. This includes but is not limited to:

      a. Previous term GPA of 3.50 or higher

      b. Cumulative GPA of 3.50 or higher

      c. Total degree-applicable credits accumulated.

   B) Student-athletes have the right to appeal the established online course study hall policy to the Senior Associate Athletic Director for Academic Support Services. Appeals must be submitted prior to the start of the academic term via email. Student-athletes and the Academic Coordinators will be notified of the final decision prior to the start of scheduled study hall hour requirements.

Effective as of August 24, 2020
1. During the past calendar year has the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President (or their respective offices) announced initiatives or goals or acted upon issues that fall under the charge of your Committee? If so, was your Committee consulted by the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President in a timely manner before the announcement or action? If not, do you believe your Committee should have been consulted? Would it have been helpful to have had the input of your Committee from the outset?

Answer: No initiatives or goals or acted upon issues fell under the charge of our committee.

2. Did your Committee seek information or input from the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President or members of their staffs? If so, did they respond adequately and in a timely manner?

Answer: No information was sought from the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President or members of their staff.

3. Please suggest how you believe the President, Provost, Senior Vice President and/or their staffs might more effectively interact with your Committee in the future, if necessary.

Answer: In the past, the President’s Chief-of-Staff would attend the meetings as his schedule allowed it. Unfortunately, this year, nobody from the President’s office attended any of the meetings.

4. Please relate any additional information you may have regarding interactions between your Committee and the President, Provost, Senior Vice President, or their staff.

Answer: We always have a representative from the Provost office (Janette Muir) and Asst. Vice-President and Director of Athletics Brad Edwards attend the meetings.