2012 Spring ODAC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Sweet Briar College - March 25

Attendance
Becca Unruh, BC
Male Rep, BC
Nora Osei, EMU
Ross Ellis, E&H
Female Rep
Guilford Female Rep
Alicia Johns, HU
Tyler Ritter, H-SC
David Barrett, H-SC
Jacob Hood, RAND
Sam McCarrity, RAND
Olivia Johnson, RAND
Bailey Troia, R-MC
Sissy Winstead, SBC
Ellie Bryant, SBC

Charlotte Greenwood, SBC
Sean Whitson, VWC
Richmond Letterio, VWC
Luke Terna, W&L
Meg Ingram, W&L
Melvin Felix, EMU
Eric Lewis, GC
Kelly Morrison, SBC
Val Cushman, W&L, Presenter on Title IX
Bill Kuchler, LC, Presenter on leadership
Bev Reid, LC, Presenter on careers in athletics/resume building
J.J. Nekoloff, ODAC
Mollie Robertson, ODAC

The spring meeting consisted of three, 45-minute professional development pieces for the student-athletes in the morning, followed by a conference discussion in the afternoon.

10:15am-11:00am:
Beverly Reid, Director of Career Development at Lynchburg College, was the first presenter and she talked to the group on careers in athletics and resume building. Reid provided a lot of good information, including a handout with traits of an athlete and how to incorporate those traits into real world jobs. Then she spent time a lot of time on resume building (included an example resume in the handout). Reid also provided a sampling of websites where student-athletes could find internships and full time jobs. She also talked with the student-athletes who had other interests outside of athletics. Reid emphasized that a lot of the traits student-athletes have, such as handling pressure well, coachable and willing to learn, time management, mentally tough, etc., are all traits that every employer looks for.

11:00am-11:45am:
Val Cushman, Senior Assistant to the President and Washington and Lee University, presented on Title IX. Cushman discussed the history of Title IX and the impact and importance it has had on athletics, specifically women in athletics. The group engaged in conversation with Val and each other.

12:00pm-12:45pm:
Bill Kuchler, Department of Sport Management (Professor and Chair) at Lynchburg College was the final presenter of the morning. Kuchler had the student-athletes come up with traits they liked in a good leader and traits they found in bad leaders. Then they came back together and discussed the various elements of leadership. Kuchler was able to incorporate some pieces of Bev Reid’s presentation into his, which was a nice follow up and summary of how being a good leader can help you on the field, in the classroom, and in the real world.
1:30pm-2:30pm:
Brad Bankston updated the group on legislation from the NCAA convention.

2:30pm-3:15pm:
The group spent some time discussing three topics the conference wanted feedback on: non-traditional season (four weeks vs. five weeks), relationship between athletics and academics on campus, and the strength and conditioning legislation.

**Nontraditional Season: 4 weeks vs. 5 weeks**
Bankston discussed with the group the idea of moving non-traditional seasons from four weeks to five weeks. He provided background information on why our conference has used four weeks and also pointed out that some other conferences use five weeks, while others do not even have a non-traditional season.

FEEDBACK: The group thought five weeks was more beneficial than four weeks. From a coaches’ standpoint, it would be better not to have to pack things into four weeks. The student-athletes believed that five weeks might allow flexibility for dual sport athletes to better compete in both in-season sport and non-traditional sport. The only argument against five weeks is staffing the practices with athletic trainers, field crews, etc. In the end, it’s still 16 practices regardless of the number of weeks. All in all, there was overwhelming support from the student-athletes to go from four to five weeks.

**Relationship between athletics and academics**
The group spent some time discussing the relationship between athletics and academics at each of their institutions. The main issues seem to stem from practice times and professors not wanting the student-athletes to miss class. Here is a breakdown by school:

**BC:** Issues with labs and practice times

**EMU:** Professors are open and willing to work with student-athletes as long as the student-athletes are making an effort and doing the required work.

**E&H:** Scheduling difficulties.

**GC:** Student-athletes feel that the professors are not supportive of them. Some of the consequences of missed class time include dropping a letter grade.

**H-SC:** Majority of professors are supportive. No real issues amongst students and athletes.

**HU:** Scheduling and practice issues.

**LC:** Not present

**RAND:** Not present

**R-MC:** Problems with scheduling of major-required classes causing unfixed practice schedules

**RC:** Not present

**SBC:** Majority of professors are supportive. No real issues amongst students and athletes.

**VWC:** Issues with classes being scheduled late by professors

**W&L:** Majority of professors are supportive. No real issues amongst students and athletes.

**Strength and Conditioning – Voluntary**
The group gave positive reviews both on experience and involvement. It seems to be working well at each institution.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm.