Faculty Committee – Intercollegiate Athletics & University Advancement
Minutes Approved September 30, 2019

In attendance: Morris Council, Javier Hasbun, Meg Pearson, Daryl Dickey, Scott Gordon, Bob Morris (FAR), Anca Koczkas, Cynthia Brown, Beth Sheppard  9/10/19

Chair – Scott Gordon

(Note, there were no representatives present from advancement, though Jami Bower did send some notes that Scott conveyed.)

Topics for discussion:

1. Increasing awareness of superior academic performance of athletes among faculty
   a. Background – Our athletes have superior GPA’s.
      i. For retention, coaches are recruiting not athletes, but scholar-athletes. They’ve focused on that for the past 5 years.
      ii. They have a full academic support crew within the Athletic Dept. that begins working with students and advising them from orientation day 1. (David Haas heads this up)
      iii. We are a NCAA, D2 School. Except Cheer, which is not offered by the NCAA as a sport. Cheer competes on a different circuit.
      iv. There are 15 Ingram Scholars who are also athletes.
   b. Faculty Write Notes to athletes
   c. Reception for Athletes
   d. There may be plans in the works for a faculty/staff appreciation day. Likely the game against Shorter (Oct 5th Fall Break). Nov. 16th is the Valdosta Game. Valdosta is the chief rival and the UWG football coach was a former Valdosta coach. Some concern was expressed about good attendance on Oct 5th since that is Fall Break.
   e. Other ideas?
      i. Faculty member at each event as an honorary coach
      ii. Is there athletic apparel branded for faculty – i.e., UWG Mom, UWG Booster, -- how do the students know the faculty is there supporting them if faculty look like just general folk in the stands?
      iii. Students might identify faculty they like or with whom they have a good rapport and personally invite them to a game.

2. Ways of bringing academics and athletics closer (communicating with faculty about athlete academic issues, increasing faculty involvement in athletic events, etc.)
   a. Why don’t faculty get involved?
      i. The faculty live in Atlanta
      ii. Faculty feel the priority for the student is the athletic side, not the classwork side. – This may be a mistaken impression.
      iii. Students don’t necessarily self-identify as athletes so the connection as athlete in class isn’t made and it is hard to form the student/athlete with faculty member relationship.
   b. Are there effective ways to communicate?
      i. Ingram list just came out, but no way to tell which ones were the athletes.
      ii. Is there a way to post to the list-serv?
      iii. Can different departments or schools adopt a team?

Other notes:

In January Morris will become co-“Faculty Athletic Rep” with Bob. Morris will take over some of the distance/traveling component.

Morris agreed to take over Scott’s position as the IAUA representative on the Graduation Committee.

Work is slated to start on the new baseball field soon. The bulldozers are in place. Everyone is just waiting for them to start rolling.