

Samford University Athletics Committee
October 31, 2006

Time and Place of Meeting: Ingalls Hall 119 at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Bruce Waldrop, Chair (Pharmacy), Howard Walthall (Law), Peter Neuberger (Associate Athletics Director), Lori Northrup (Library), Greg Kawell (Arts and Sciences), Bill Belski (Business), Ralph Gold (Education), Audrey Oyama (Nursing), Grant Dalton (Performing Arts), Chris Metress (NCAA Representative), Bob Roller (Director of Athletics), and Bo Brawner (Student Representative)

Members Absent: Mark Gignilliat (Divinity)

Agenda:

Approval of minutes: Minutes from the September 27 meeting were reviewed, corrected, and approved.

Select meeting date for November: After a little discussion, November 14, at 4:00 p.m. was chosen as the next meeting date and time. Any discussion of the necessity of a December meeting was tabled until November.

Discuss revised mission statement for the Faculty Handbook: The Faculty Handbook as issued at the beginning of the academic year does not reflect the completed and revised mission statement that last year's committee worked on. Ralph noted that the revised mission statement was delivered to the chair of the handbook committee last year. He suggested that Brian Toone or the current handbook committee chair, Don Sandley, might be able to address its inclusion. The statement had been approved prior to the current edition's printing; Bruce will follow up on this issue with Brian Toone or Don Sandley to find out what happened.

New Business

SAAC-sponsored Student Athlete Convocation

Chris summarized the Student Athlete Convocation led by the SAAC on October 26, 2006. About 325 student athletes and the entire coaching staff attended. In the future, one of these convocations will be planned for each semester. The purpose of the meeting was to make sure that student athlete's knew about the SAAC and their representation on it. Students were encouraged to get to know their SAAC rep., and to encourage their team to send a representative if they didn't have one at the meeting. As part of the program, Chris spoke as Faculty Athlete Representative; he pointed out that his job was to represent students, faculty, and administration, and that students should see him as someone to whom they can bring problems or concerns. President Andrew Westmoreland also spoke to the students, summarizing some of the construction projects that will directly impact athletes on campus. Bo Brawner told the committee that at the end of the meeting, student athletes completed a 10-question survey on issues related to support of student athletes at Samford. Bruce asked if this survey overlapped with any of the surveys usually done by the athletic department. Peter stated that overlap was minimal, but that the survey most resembled, in the types of questions asked, an exit survey given to seniors. Bo speculated that results from the survey might be available for the next athletic committee meeting; he noted that the whole convo. meeting was generally considered a success by the SAAC. Greg asked Bo to share some of the SAAC's other activities for

student athletes. Bo briefed the committee on activities that the SAAC had planned for student athletes who didn't have the opportunity to leave campus during breaks. These have been appreciated by the student athletes, and more of them will be planned in the future. He also mentioned the Athletes 4 Athletes program which encourages attendance at sporting events by Samford teams, and which rewards attendance for the team with the most visits to other teams' events and to individuals.

Update from Peter Neuberger on admissions and academic reports: Peter distributed statistics on incoming freshmen student athletes. Statistics included overall GPA's based on core courses, overall GPA's based on courses that Samford accepted both within and outside of core courses, ACT scores, and SAT scores. Bruce asked if the athletic department had any concerns with these statistics, and Peter said no. He did note that this year included an extraordinary number of walk-on athletes in football. There was some discussion of GPA's. Peter also reported on conditional admissions for student athletes, and Chris reminded the committee that conditional admissions happen with students across campus, not just in athletics.

For the next meeting Peter will report on the forecast for missed classes in the Spring semester. He noted that some class times will be missed due to conference scheduling, not Samford scheduling.

Bruce asked if there were other concerns, and Ralph mentioned that students' missing the first day of classes due to games is not optimal. Bill asked that the committee be able to see more statistics on freshmen after the semester's grades compiled so that comparisons can be made with stats already gathered.

Update from Bob Roller and facilities and sports:

Bob noted that the soccer team would be competing in the OVC semifinals on Friday.

Bo asked about facilities. Bob reported that the arena is scheduled to open in October of 2007; the tennis facilities will open in December of this year; there are plans to build indoor facilities for baseball and softball. Bo and Bob noted the poor condition of the track for track and field athletes. Peter asked about the use of the tennis facilities by faculty, but Bob said it was really too early to say what would happen with that building's scheduling. The arena will have a full-time manager, so scheduling will be easier there.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting will be November 14.