

**UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UAAC)
ANNUAL REPORT
2008-2009**

The University of South Carolina Athletic Advisory Committee (UAAC) met eight times during 2008-2009. As explained in the Faculty Manual description, the committee reviews and monitors admissions decisions and the academic performance of all student athletes. It regularly receives appropriate and relevant information regarding the academic issues involving student-athletes including:

- graduation rates;
- admissions decisions for athletes receiving grants-in-aid, including reports of the Committee on Special Admissions;
- annual inter-collegiate athletic program schedules and major changes to them;
- the annual budget of the Athletics Department;
- NCAA certification reports, including Title IX reports;
- major requests for waivers of any institutional athletic policies;
- major changes in Athletics Department personnel;
- the needs, interests, and concerns of student athletes;
- all other issues regarding inter-collegiate activities as referred to it by University officials.

The committee advises, as appropriate, the Faculty Senate, the NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR), the President, the Director of Athletics, and the Board of Trustees on all matters under its consideration.

At the September 25th meeting Bill Bearden, the Faculty Athletic Representative, presented the University class attendance policy, which does not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. Bill raised this issue with the Committee on Scholastic Standards and Petitions and at a later meeting they discussed this issue and made a recommendation to the Faculty Senate. Raymond Harrison presented an overview of the tutoring programs and the orientation program for new athletes. The committee also discussed the faculty inclusion in the Yearly Equitable Seating (YES) plan, the new plan for tickets to football games. The previous USC Plan for faculty was limited to 2 + dependents, \$256 for each season ticket, which was a 20% discount. The new plan keeps the 20% discount on the ticket price and gives a discount of \$145 per seat on the new seat premiums. Almost all of the faculty will pay seat premiums of \$55 or less per seat.

At the October 30th meeting Val Sheley presented graduation rates. There are two graduation rates that must be calculated for student athletes: 1) The Graduation Success rate (GSR) and 2) The Federal Graduation Rate. Both of these use a six year window i.e., they compute the percentage of student athletes that graduate in six years. The Federal rate considers transfers-out as non-graduates. The main distinction is that the GSR allows transfers-in to count and does not penalize for transfers-out if they are academically eligible to continue at the time of transfer. The GSR numbers are all above 64% (men's basketball 64%, football 65%, baseball 73% through tennis 100%, golf 100%) which is comparable to the graduation rate of the entire student body. The federal numbers are

generally lower because of the way transfers are counted and sometimes surprisingly so. For instance for baseball the federal rate is only 29% compared to the GSR of 73%. This is of course because so many of our baseball players either transfer-out or turn pro after their junior year.

At the November 25th meeting in response to articles in USA today on choices of majors for athletes Raymond Harrison led a discussion of majors and advising. Our distribution of majors amongst our student athletes does not indicate any problems. The chair reported that the Steering Committee had recommended that each committee develop a website.

In the January 27th meeting Raymond Harrison, Director of Academic Services, presented a GPA report that covered all teams for the last 12 years. There was a dramatic increase in the GPA for the men's basketball team (from 2.264 to 2.749) with essentially the same student athletes. This was attributed to Coach Horn holding them accountable. Overall 13 or 17 of our teams had a GPA of over 3.00. Bruce Meglino asked what the rates for the entire student population were and a follow-up report from the registrar was discussed at the next meeting. Several news items were briefly discussed including the monitoring of attendance of student athletes. Val Sheley noted a problem with getting book orders so that books could be available when student athletes try to purchase them at the start of the semester. If book orders are not in on time then it causes significant delays in the student athletes getting their books.

At the February 24th meeting Coach Ben Somera visited with the committee and discussed issues of interest including: the travel games in fall are usually paired trips playing Friday & Sunday. There is only one weekday travel game against the travel partner (Florida). Off-season contact with the student athlete is limited to 6 hours per week. In the discussion of GPAs of student athletes at the last meeting the question arose of how these GPAs compare to the entire student body. The data for fall 2008 obtained from Barbara Blaney, Registrar, is summarized by the mean GPA non-athletes 3.148 compared to 3.06 for student athletes. The admissions process for athletes was reviewed. There are three categories, regular, special admits and contract special admits. The University allots special admits for 60 athletes and 50 non-athletes per year. These are applicants that are not admitted by the regular admissions process. Most of these are admitted as a result of the policy developed by former Provost Mark Becker. If the student-athletes is not admitted by this policy but does meet a required minimum standard, then their application is reviewed and considered by the Special Admissions Committee. If there is a reasonable chance of success (graduation) then a contract can be drawn up with the student, specifying the extra study halls and tutoring sessions that they must attend. Since fall 2007 there have been only 11 contract admits and only two have not been successes to this point.

At the March 24th meeting John Kasik, Director of Sports Medicine presented an overview of the Sports medicine activities at USC, including the drug monitoring procedures. This program tests 30-40 student athletes twice a week with about 600 tests last fall and 400 this spring. Selection is random but each athlete will be tested at least

once each year. The NCAA also randomly selects 25 or so athletes to test once a year. David Crockett questioned what was done within the wellness umbrella for education on sexually transmitted diseases. Unfortunately due to limited time with the student athletes not much other than in the initial orientation program is being done on this topic. Raymond Harrison reported that the percentage of faculty that return the "Progress Report on Student Athletes" was only 32% for this semester. It was pointed out that this should be reported to the faculty senate.

At the April 28th meeting Pamela Melton was elected of UAAC Chair for 2009-2010 by acclamation and the committee welcomed newly elected committee members for 2009-2010, Professor Rick Stephens, Journalism and Mass Communications, Professor Zach Kelehear, Education Leadership & Policies. Val Sheley presented the APR public report and a comparison with other SEC schools. Last year Men's Football with APR 921 and Men's Basketball with APR 899 were the teams that did not score above the minimum 925. There were "improvement plans" that were submitted for each of these programs and they each received a "waiver" from the NCAA. This year the football data looks good, and the basketball number is better, but still below the 925. We took a penalty of one lost scholarship last year for Men's basketball.

At the June 16th meeting Jeff Tallant presented the budget and led the discussion.

- The Athletic Department is totally self-supporting and annually transfers \$13M to the University General Fund.
- The total revenue in the budget is \$60M: 30% Ticket admissions, 24% SEC revenue, and 20% Gamecock Club contributions.
- Revenue from Ticket sales is largely from football (87%), M basketball (8%), and baseball (4%).
- Total Expenditures \$60M, 35% Salary and Benefits, 22% General and Administrative, 17% Grants-in-Aid, 7% for Team Travel and 6% for Game Services.

It should be noted by the faculty that the Athletics Department has committed to donate an additional \$18,000,000 to the General Fund over the 15 years of the new television contract between ESPN and the SEC.

Submitted by Manton Matthews, Chair of UAAC
UAAC Members, 2008-2009

Elected

James Augustine, Medicine (2009)
Manton Matthews, Computer Science and Engineering (2009)
David Crockett, Business(2010)
Bruce Meglino, Business (2010)
Lynda Nilges, Education (2010)
Pamela Melton, Law Library (2011)
Ray Torres, Earth and Ocean Sciences (2011)

Appointed

Liza Todd, Student

Sam Foster, Board of Trustees

Eric Hyman, Athletic Director

Bill Bearden, Faculty Athletic Representative

Dennis Pruitt, Student and Alumni Services

Val Sheley, Associate Athletic Director

Raymond Harrison, Director of Academic Support Operations, Athletics Dept.