

**University Athletic Advisory Committee (UAAC)  
Annual Report 2006-2007**

The University of South Carolina Athletic Advisory Committee (UAAC) met six times during 2006-2007. As explained in the Faculty Manual description of the committee, 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 eligibility and progress of student-athletes, including graduation rates. The committee also receives and reviews reports on annual inter-collegiate athletic program schedules and major changes to them; the annual budget of the Athletics Department; admissions decisions for athletes receiving grants-in-aid; NCAA certification reports, including Title IX reports; major requests for waiver of any institutional athletic policies; major changes in Athletics Department personnel (specifically the director of athletics, director of the academic support unit, and head coaches for each sport); 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. In addition to addressing these and other topics during 2006-2007, a number of coaches met with the committee and discussed issues impacting their athletes and the academic environment of those student athletes.

The September meeting was highlighted by a presentation from Director of Athletics Eric Hyman regarding the NCAA's Academic Progress Report (APR), and the implications of the University's performance in this report upon individual athletic programs. Hyman also reported that the University is adding a Lacrosse team, and he reported the status of the Master Plan for Athletics Facilities. Faculty Athletics Representative Bill Bearden reported on a letter he is distributing to all faculty regarding the need for faculty cooperation with grade and attendance reports for student athletes. Finally, UAAC chair Augie Grant reported on correspondence with the ticket office regarding football tickets: of the 55,070 season tickets sold, faculty received 4139, 7.5% of the total.

Volleyball Coach Nancy Somera kicked off the October meeting with a discussion of the rebuilding efforts in the program, highlighting the contributions of specific student-athletes. Senior Associate Athletics Director Val Sheley presented the 1996-1999 cohort Graduation Success report to the Committee, discussing differences between this report and the APR and the use of merit raises for coaches to incentivize improvements in academic progress for each team. Associate Athletics Director Harold White presented an overview of the Academic Enrichment Center and how it serves student athletes. Faculty Athletics Representative Bill Bearden reported on a proposal for a new attendance policy, and Student representative Andrew Gaeckle requested assistance from the Athletics Department on Student Government's "Cocky's Reading Express" outreach program.

November's meeting included a presentation from Women's Tennis Coach Arlo Elkins, in his 24<sup>th</sup> season at USC, who discussed the dual seasons for Tennis and the importance of international students on the tennis team. The University's new Assistant Athletics Director of Compliance, Jennifer Stiles, was introduced to the Committee. FAR Bill Bearden reported on discussions to streamline the admissions timeline for student athletes, as well as the role of the special admissions committee in the process. Val Sheley distributed copies of the University's report required by the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act.

The Committee received a detailed presentation on the Department of Athletics Master Facilities Plan from Director of Athletics Eric Hyman at the February meeting. The plan budgets a total of \$194.9 million for facilities improvements including an "Athletics Horseshoe Complex" (including a new Academic Enrichment Center and Athletics offices), the new baseball stadium, expansion of the football stadium, etc. The Department of Athletics is preparing a capital campaign to fund the facilities. Other business at the February meeting included a presentation on the special admissions process from FAR Bill Bearden, impact of the latest Academic Progress Report (4 teams did not reach their goals and could lose scholarships: men's football and basketball, and indoor and outdoor track). Finally Associate Athletics Director Harold White presented the new attendance policy for student athletes.

The focus of the April meeting was on issues related to misbehavior of student athletes. Representatives of the Department of Athletics discussed revised orientation policies designed to let student-athletes know about their responsibilities and the impact of misbehavior on the athletes themselves, their team, and the University. FAR Bill Bearden also reported on a meeting with President Sorensen to discuss issues related to the Special Admissions Process and the interface between the Athletics Department and the Admissions Office.

As required by its charge, the committee received the Athletics Department Budget report at its June meeting (postponed from May because the budget had not been finalized). The most important detail from the budget presentation by Jeff Tallant was the turnaround of the Athletics Department budget from deficit to surplus. FAR Bill Bearden discussed pending SEC legislation. Senior Associate Director of Athletics Val Sheley distributed four reports: the Federal Graduation Rate Report, the Graduation Success Rate Report, the Academic Progress Report, and the Federal EDADA Report. Director of Athletics Eric Hyman introduced Raymond Harrison as Interim Director of the Academic Enrichment Center.

**Looking Forward:**

The University Athletics Advisory Committee fulfilled most of its charges, receiving reports from the Department of Athletics regarding academic progress, graduation rate, etc. The Committee has an opportunity to play a more proactive role in bridging athletics and academics at the University of South Carolina. For example, the committee did not participate in any aspect of the planning of the Master Facilities Plan

for the Department of Athletics, nor was it consulted before the Department of Athletics agreed to move the Kentucky football game from Saturday to Thursday night (because of the impact of Thursday football games on Thursday afternoon and evening classes, the Department of Athletics had agreed in the previous year to consult with the UAAC before moving football games to Thursday night).

Submitted by Augie Grant, Chair of UAAC

UAAC Members, 2006-2007

Elected

Geoff Alpert, Criminal Justice  
James R. Augustine, Medicine  
Mathew Bernthal, Sports Management  
Manton Matthews, Engineering  
Pamela Melton, Law School  
Gary Miller, Educational Studies

Appointed:

Andrew Gaeckle, Student  
Sam Foster, Board of Trustees  
Stephanie Margalis, Student, Pres. Student Athletic Advisory Comm.  
Eric Hyman, Athletic Director  
Matt Strickland, Student  
Augie Grant, Journalism  
Jennifer Gay, Graduate Student  
Bill Bearden, Faculty Athletic Representative  
Dennis Pruitt, Student and Alumni Services  
Val Sheley, Associate Athletic Director  
Harold White, Associate Athletic Director