

MINUTES

Committee on Equal Opportunity in Athletics

November 19, 2008

The Committee on Equal Opportunity in Athletics met at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 19, 2008 in the Merryman Center conference room.

Present

Mr. Kevin Ayoub
Mr. John Beach
Dr. Larry Killough
Dr. Leon McClinton, Jr.
Ms. Karisa Moore
Mr. Ross Verbrugge

Absent

Dr. Ray Ali
Ms. Christina Brogdon
Dr. Leon Geyer
Dr. Kimberly Mitchell
Ms. Keisha Williams

Also present were the following staff representing Athletics: Natalie Hart and Pam Linkous.

Welcome

Natalie welcomed the committee and introduced Jocelyn Fisher, an intern with the NCAA's Diversity and Inclusion Office. Jocelyn is on a site visit here and will continue with a visit to the ACC tomorrow.

Recap of Purpose

Natalie reviewed the purpose of the committee's work and thanked everyone for turning in their recommendations early.

She distributed copies of each subcommittee's recommendations to the group. Natalie reminded the committee that the recommendations will be compiled into one report for review by the CEOD. Recommendation from the CEOD will then be reviewed and incorporated into the Minority Opportunity Plan.

Report from Administrative Issues Subcommittee

John Beech reviewed for his team their recommendations on administrative issues (see attached recommendations).

Report from Employment Subcommittee

Leon McClinton and Karisa Moore reviewed for their team their recommendations on employment issues (see attached recommendations).

Discussion followed the recommendations of the employment subcommittee regarding the Transitions course for student-athletes and how it exposes student-athletes to future careers. The University Athletic Committee (UAC) has tried to assist in getting the Transitions course passed through the University Curriculum Committee but efforts have been tabled due to a change in SAASS leadership. Natalie suggested that the committee could speak with members of the UAC if there is strong support for the Transitions course.

Larry Killough questioned why we would want to keep the course. He felt some of the areas covered in the course were premature for freshmen and sophomores. Larry continued saying that he believes student-athletes receive this course too early in their academic career and feels it would be more beneficial for juniors and seniors. Larry suggested the course be looked at closely and evaluated. Natalie mentioned this would be something the new yet-to-be-named director of SAASS could consider.

Report from Student-Athlete Representation Subcommittee

Ross Verbrugge reported for his committee (see attached recommendations).

Report from Student Life Subcommittee

Larry Killough and Kevin Ayoub reported on recommendations for the student life subcommittee (see attached recommendations). Larry reviewed their recommendations for the exit interview survey and Kevin reviewed their recommendations for programs and activities.

Karisa mentioned her office does a lot of programming for students also (Ray Plaza and Sylvia Ramos-Cotton). Suggested a meeting with Ray Williams, Ray Plaza, and Sylvia Ramos-Cotton, and others, to talk about programs in which student-athletes could be involved.

The Office for Student Life needs to explore working with other university offices on planning events at which student-athletes and the general student body can work together on programs or activities such as Habitat for Humanity.

Kevin suggested that a member of the Office of Student Life in Athletics could attend a monthly meeting of the University Chartered Student Organizations with the Assistant Director of Student Activities to share future programming and organizations calendars.

Next Steps

Prior to the February meeting, Natalie will compile the subcommittee recommendations into a draft report for membership review.

Adjournment at 5:00 p.m.