

# MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2016 ATHLETIC COUNCIL MEETING

## I. CHAIR REPORT

NCAA Convention. Dr. Hadley provided an overview of the action taken at the January NCAA Convention. He shared that time demands placed on student-athletes was the focus of the autonomy conferences (Atlantic Coast, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and Southeastern conferences) and there was collective agreement to develop thoughtful reform that demonstrates a commitment to an optimal student-athlete experience in which athletics and academics are appropriately balanced.

## II. DIRECTOR REPORT

Competitive Update. Kevin Anderson reported on the competitive accomplishments of the winter sports and the spring sports which are commencing their seasons. He also shared that Ray Leone, former Harvard University head women's soccer coach, was named head coach of the Maryland women's soccer team on January 13, 2016.

Academic Excellence. Chris Uchacz reported on the fall semester academic accomplishments. Academic excellence included 68 student-athletes earning Dean's List honors, 11 student-athletes enrolled in Master's degree studies, 27 midyear graduating student-athletes and 227 student-athletes earning a semester grade-point average of 3.00 or higher. The Athletic Council commended Mr. Uchacz for his ongoing leadership over the last five years.

Student-Athlete Life Skills and Career Development. Sue Sherburne provided a report on the fall semester student-athlete life skills and career development programming, which included a business etiquette seminar, an alcohol awareness speaker, and the Terps Got Talent Show which raised \$3,500 for charity.

## III. STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE

Student-Athlete Handbook - Social Media Guidelines. The Athletic Council reviewed and supported the recommended language modifications to the Student-Athlete Handbook policy on social media. It was noted that the recommendations were developed with input from the University general counsel office.

Drug Testing Policies. The Athletic Council discussed changes to the current drug testing policies proposed by the Student Life Committee. The Student Life Committee proposed changes to the sanctions for positive drug tests for marijuana. It was noted that sanctions for other banned substances will remain the same. It was also shared that the State of Maryland and other states and jurisdictions in the United States have reduced or eliminated their penalties for marijuana usage. The Olympics and the NCAA have also reduced their sanctions for marijuana usage and the Big Ten Conference no longer tests for it. The Athletic Council consensus was that it was appropriate to make changes at this time and that our drug testing policy should be reviewed annually in light of changing policies nationwide. There was also support for providing more education for student-athletes about drug usage.

## IV. STUDENT FEES REVIEW PROCESS

Dr. Hadley provided an overview of ICA's student fee process. The Athletic Council was informed that a student fee report is annually presented to the Athletic Department Student Advisory Council (ADSAC). ADSAC is comprised of GSG, SGA, RHA, and other student

representatives. After ADSAC has completed its review, the fees are subject to the approval of the University's Committee on the Review of Student Fees.

Natasha Seraj reported that GSG had discussed the issue and that the graduate students use all of the allotted tickets. It was further shared that the GSG and SGA consensus was that the current fee was acceptable, but it was noted that lower fees are preferred. Discussion ensued on replacing the fee with student season tickets. It was noted that the Maryland fee is the highest in the Big Ten except possibly for Rutgers, although nine (9) other Big Ten schools charge students for football and men's basketball tickets, while Maryland does not. The staff shared that ICA is not seeking a fee increase for the ensuing year and has not requested an increase since 2013. In addition to tickets, the student fees are used for promotional giveaways (e.g., t-shirts, M Rewards) and to support student fan experience outreach and groups such as Terp Town, Maryland Madness, and The Pride.