

**ATHLETIC COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008**

Membership, 2007-2008

Catherine Berheide, Professor of Sociology, NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative

Megan Buchanan, Associate Athletic Director and Senior Woman Administrator

Gail Cummings-Danson, Athletic Director

Shaila DeLea, Class of 2008, Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Representative

Michael Ennis-McMillan, Dean of Studies and DOF Representative

Steven Frey, Associate Professor of Chemistry

Lauren Mosenthal, Class of 2010, Student Government Association Representative

Daniel Nathan, Associate Professor of American Studies, Chair

Pat Oles, Dean of Student Affairs

David Peterson, Associate Professor of Art (sabbatical replacement Spring '08)

Adrienne Zuerner, Associate Professor of French (on sabbatical Spring '08)

Athletic Council (AC) had a productive year. It met fourteen times, including trips to the College's boathouse and the Van Lennep Riding Center. The following is a brief account of our activities.

In early September, AC presented the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) and the faculty with its revised description for the Faculty Handbook. The revised description had been in the works for at least three years and was intended to reflect more accurately AC's duties and to make its functions more explicit. The document was reviewed by FEC and approved with minor modifications.

At the October 5 faculty meeting, FEC moved that the function and membership statements for AC in the Faculty Handbook (Part Two, Article II, Section F, number 12) be amended. FEC further offered a friendly amendment to reduce and revise the language offered in the motion. The friendly amendment was read into the record. Discussion of the motion ensued. The motion was put to a vote and passed unanimously.

One of AC's agenda items was to host an event that would bring together Skidmore coaches and faculty, people who share much in common but who infrequently interact. Toward this end, AC organized a pedagogy workshop-like event at the Tang featuring interim Dean of Special Programs Jeff Segrave. This event was intended to foster collegiality and greater appreciation for the relationship between coaching and teaching. Unfortunately, because of inclement weather on February 1, the Faculty Meeting was rescheduled for February 8, thus forcing AC to postpone its event. Due to scheduling complications, the event had to be put off until the following academic year. On the bright side, Assistant Dean of the Faculty and Director of the First-Year Experience Beau Breslin agreed to put AC's event on next year's pedagogy workshop schedule.

During the 2005-2006 academic year, the Committee on Educational Policies and Planning (CEPP) charged AC with the annual evaluation of Physical Activity (PA) instructors and with the review of the PA Program every five years. This was done to provide academic oversight for

the PA Program, which had moved from Academic Affairs to Student Affairs during the 2005 administrative restructuring. In response to this charge, AC developed procedures for conducting reviews. AC's proposed procedures were reviewed and approved by FEC. This past academic year, AC conducted its first review of PA instructors, the specifics of which are confidential. We can report, however, that AC faculty members have confidence in all of the PA instructors who were reviewed. They were receptive to the review process, AC's feedback, and certainly consider teaching an important part of their work at the College.

Another AC agenda item was to assess athletic facilities that require capital improvements, which is part of the Skidmore College Athletics Strategic Plan. As a result, AC investigated the College's boathouse and the Van Lennep Riding Center, both of which are in extremely poor condition. AC also discussed ways to improve the College's tennis courts and locker rooms.

Consistent with these efforts, AC met with Jim Ricker of the Friends of Skidmore Athletics (FOSA) on December 13. Ricker discussed FOSA's desire to be part of the process of improving Skidmore's athletic facilities and said that he is confident that there will be new money to support these projects.

In response to our findings, which were gleaned from on-site visits and information provided by the Athletic Director and others, AC wrote a memorandum, dated April 2, to President Phil Glotzbach and Mark Huibretgse, Co-Chairs of Institutional Policies and Planning Committee, describing the problems with these facilities and advocating for their improvement.

On April 29, AC welcomed Phil Glotzbach (and Barbara Krause) to its last meeting of the year so that he could respond to the aforementioned memorandum about the College's athletic facilities, specifically the boathouse and the stables, which are, in AC's view, in need of urgent improvement. The meeting was collegial and productive. Glotzbach thanked AC for its hard work and support and said he sees athletic facilities as an important priority. AC plans to have ongoing conversations about this matter and to continue to advocate for action. In addition, Gail Cummings-Danson will convene a Facilities Committee, with FOSA and AC representatives, as well as staff from Advancement.

As part of AC's regular business, Cathy DeLorenzo from the Office of Admissions met with us on April 1 to explain and discuss admissions policies regarding student-athletes. She spoke in particular about the so-called "slotted athlete program" which assists in the recruitment of academically qualified student-athletes. In conjunction with this report, Cummings-Danson presented data comparing slotted student-athletes with non-slotted athletes that suggests that there is no statistical difference in their academic performance.

Cummings-Danson also presented AC with the nominations for the annual Tim Brown Student-Athlete Award, and AC (excluding the student representatives) determined the student to be honored. This year's winner was Shaila DeLea, an Exercise Science major with a 3.63 GPA and a 3.93 in her major, and an exemplary field hockey and softball player.

In addition to the work described above, Cummings-Danson provided AC with biweekly reports on athletics, including the progress of various teams, alumni functions such as the Hall of Fame

Induction Ceremony, policies regarding student-athletes, progress on various capital projects, and a wide range of challenges with which Athletics is grappling.

Finally, Adrienne Zuerner will chair AC during the 2008-2009 academic year. Paul Arciero was elected to a three-year term and will replace Steve Frey, who finished his three-year term in May.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Nathan, Chair
July 15, 2008