

ATHLETIC COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

Membership, 2009-2010

Paul Arciero, Associate Professor of Health and Exercise Sciences

Catherine Berheide, Professor of Sociology and NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative

Adrienne Zuerner, Associate Professor of French

Flagg Taylor, Assistant Professor of Government

Megan Buchanan, Associate Athletics Director and Senior Woman Administrator

Rochelle Calhoun, Dean of Student Affairs

Gail-Cummings Danson, Athletics Director

Michael Ennis-McMillan, Associate Dean of the Faculty for Academic Advising & Associate Professor of Anthropology

Ali Cooper, Class of 2011, Student Athlete Advisory Committee Representative

Athletics Council (AC) met ten times this academic year and completed regular business in addition to sponsoring some recently added events.

For the third year, faculty members of AC performed annual evaluations of Physical Activity (PA) instructors and submitted a confidential report to the Dean of Faculty, the Dean of Student Affairs, and the Athletic Director. This year, faculty on AC evaluated three PA instructors, and found each of them to uphold the highest standards of academic rigor in their classes and provide the students with a stimulating and engaging learning environment. We believe these instructors are continuing with the tradition of the Athletics Department in executing the mission of the college to promote the health and wellness goals as outlined in Skidmore's Strategic Plan, which states the "systematic promotion of lifelong habits of health – not just for those involved directly in intercollegiate athletics but for all of our students."

In keeping with our operating code, we invited members from Admissions and Academic Student Services to report on various aspects of admissions and academic performance of our student-athletes. In September, Michael Ennis-McMillan reported on the overall success of summer advising in relation to incoming first-year student-athletes and the reduction in schedule changes that needed to be made due to possible conflicts with athletic commitments. In March, Michael and Sue Layden provided an update from Dean of Studies and Dean of Student Affairs offices, respectively on the academic support and performance of our student-athletes. Both confirmed that the summer advising has been a huge success in terms of reducing course and schedule conflicts for incoming students and that, in general, student-athletes do not seem to be at risk of more academic problems or probation compared to non-athletes.

Throughout the year, Gail Cummings-Danson provided AC with bimonthly reports on athletics, including performance of athletic teams, Thoroughbred Society and Hall of Fame induction ceremonies, Friends of Skidmore Athletics (FOSA) events, team sponsored events and fundraisers, and the continued success of hosting the New York Knicks training camp (September 29 – October 3). This past year, the training camp was made more available to the Skidmore and surrounding Saratoga Community and met with a wide degree of success. AC was also briefed on the role of the newly formed Athletics Facilities Committee (AFC) that is charged with producing a master plan for athletics here at Skidmore. AC members on the committee include Gail Cummings-Danson, Rochelle Calhoun,

Megan Buchanan, Kate Berheide, and Flagg Taylor. Funding is a central issue related to moving forward with the goals of the AFC.

The AC made revisions to the “Athletic Council Procedures for review of physical activity instructors” in order to clarify the process and place it in line with the rotation of new hires to the athletic staff. In addition, the AC approved a schedule and timeline that includes approximate dates for the review process to ensure that PA instructors are reviewed during the semesters when they are teaching.

In October and November, AC invited guests from various programs to discuss pertinent matters affecting athletics. In October, Ben Anderson, representing FOSA, visited with AC to discuss the goals, structure, and challenges relating to student-athlete alumni of Skidmore. Ben stated a primary goal of FOSA was to engage alumni from the 1980’s and 1990’s and to educate parents and alumni about the model used to raise money for athletics. In November, Jen Burden, the Director of Health Promotion, visited with AC to discuss the role of the Health Task Force and presented the findings from the Health Task Force Final Report (dated February 22, 2008). Jen has re-constituted another working group that will focus on alcohol abuse and will report back to the AC once they have completed their work.

In February, AC hosted the second annual Pedagogy Workshop on the relationship among coaches, students, and faculty. Dan Nathan was invited to be the moderator of the event and panelists that included faculty (Kim Marsella, Kyle Nichols), coaches (Luke Flockerzi, Beth Hallenbeck) and students (Ali Frey – field hockey and lacrosse; Scott Madison – men’s lacrosse). The event was well attended. However, AC will continue to develop strategies to increase attendance by a more diverse group of faculty, staff, and administrators on campus.

In April, AC selected the winner of the annual Tim Brown Student-Athlete Award. This year’s recipient of the award was Jon Douglas. Douglas was a philosophy major with a 3.6 overall GPA and was a three time Liberty League All-Academic Team and a member of the Thoroughbred Society.

At the Registrar and Institutional Research Study Group’s request, AC participated in the discussions concerning the future of the Registrar and Director of Institutional Research, both of which involved roles that Ann Henderson (who is retiring in December) filled. AC depends on both the Registrar and IR for various duties it is responsible to fulfill under the policies and procedures of AC. For example, student-athlete eligibility, Thoroughbred Society and academic awards, as well as certain reports require AC and Registrar to communicate with each other. AC gathers information generated from IR for athletic progress reports for the NCAA, such as retention and graduation rates, financial aid and GPA reports and does not necessarily work directly with personnel from IR. In both cases, AC relies significantly on both the Registrar and IR to carry out its policies and procedures on a regular basis.

Paul Arciero will chair AC again during the 2010-2011 academic year. Flagg Taylor will be on sabbatical leave for the year and Joerg Bibow will serve in his place. Adrienne Zuerner has completed her 3 year appointment and her replacement is Tonya Dodge from psychology. Michael Ennis-McMillan completed his term as the Dean of Studies and Dean of Faculty representative (Associate Dean of the Faculty for Academic Advising) and will be replaced by Corey Freeman-Galant.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul J. Arciero, Chair
July 21, 2010