

Athletic Council Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2026
8:00-9:00 a.m. Williamson Sports Center Conference Room

Athletic Council Members Present: Daniel Peterson (Chair), David Cohen (ADOF), Brooke LaValle (SAAC), Avery Rogers (SGA), Kate Berheide, Karen Kellogg, Bernardo Ramirez Rios (FAR), and Gail Cummings-Danson (AD and AVPSA).

Guests Present: Matt Cohen (Admissions) and Beth Post-Lundquist (Financial Aid)

- I. December 8, 2025 minutes approved
- II. Admissions Overview
 - a. The collaboration between Admissions and Athletics works very well, and Gail and Matt are the point people for this connection.
 - b. Matt works with coaches on prereads. Admissions does not tell coaches whether the student will be admitted rather whether the applicant is a realistic candidate for Skidmore and it is appropriate to continue the recruiting conversation. Coaches can rank order how important candidates might be for their teams, and coaches can influence/elevate particular students on the admissions list.
 - c. In Early Decision (ED) round 1, 1/3 were recruited athletes. The admit rate for early decision athletes is 95%. ED round 2 discussions are today. It is too early to determine the profile of Class of 2030. For 2029, there were 12,000 applications, a 24% acceptance rate, 65% received financial aid, and 20% were Pell Grant eligible.
- III. Financial Aid (FA) Overview
 - a. FA offers early reads as well. Skidmore is need aware, so financial aid can impact admission. Bylaw 15 dictates that we must fund athletes the same as non-athletes. Specifically, the percent aided among athletes, by team, has to be the same as the general population.
 - b. We report once a year to NCAA on financial aid to athletes, and they do statistical analyses to make sure we are compliant. Coaches don't know the financial situation of the families and are never part of the FA conversation.
 - c. This year, the NCAA found one sport that included 2 students who were out of range. Skidmore provided additional information, and this is being reviewed by the NCAA. One student is a Porter-Wachenheim scholar and one was a data error from the system.
 - d. We do lose some students because we don't give merit aid. Approximately half the Liberty League schools are merit aid. Coaches make it work, however.
 - e. AC agreed that FA, in addition to Admissions, should give an annual report to the committee, and we will amend our Operating Code to reflect this.

- IV. PA Instructor reviews are ongoing. Gail is sending remaining instructor for Karen to review.
- V. Our next meeting will be March 17th at 8:00 am, and Advancement (Brian MeMichele and the new Gifts Officer Nevare Denoyers) will attend. We will discuss the Tim Brown award during the second half of the meeting. Gail is communicating with coaches so we get packets in time to review for the March 17th meeting.
- VI. Regarding the search for Gail's replacement, Bernardo as FAR is co-chairing the committee with Dean Bautista. They are working with a reputable search firm and currently discussing committee composition. Once a committee is identified, they will determine the details of the search schedule. We discussed the importance of faculty representation on that committee, regardless of handbook requirements. If faculty are on the committee, we noted that this should be done through FEC.
- VII. Announcements
 - a. As noted in previous minutes, SAAC is working on several initiatives including first year surveys, a campus resource scavenger hunt, a student athlete resource page similar to the first gen page, a faculty appreciation day for each team, and possibly a faculty supporter of the year award and a newsletter to keep the broader community informed.
 - b. The fall semester OptIn opportunity (i.e., first year athletes living with other athletes) seemed very successful, and SAAC is following up with deeper assessment. Gail indicated that Res Life is open to doing this again.