

Athletic Council Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2026
8:00-9:00 a.m. Williamson Sports Center Conference Room

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

Guest: Brian DeMichele (Senior Associate Director, Major Gifts)

- I. January 27, 2026 minutes approved
- II. Advancement Report
 - a. All in to Win exceeded its goal for 2025-2026 raising over \$429,000. The program has shown growth in the amount raised over the years. The student athletes' participation is central to its fundraising success.
 - b. Friends of Skidmore Athletics (FOSA) has a goal to raise over \$150,000 to give to the college. Funding above that remains with the Athletics Department to assist with operational costs and expenditures.
 - c. Advancement needs to raise \$25,000,000 to build a new riding center (or renovate the current one)
 - d. The opening celebration of the Matt Ferrari baseball field will take place on April 4. Advancement is about 40% of the way to the \$1,000,000 goal for the baseball complex.
 - e. Current fundraising opportunities
 - i. We need to raise another \$2,000,000 for the McCaffrey-Wagman tennis and wellness center. Brian indicated that it is harder to raise money for a facility that has already opened.
 - ii. We would like to raise money to fund a paid internship in the sports communication office. The intern would be able to focus on the team webpages and Instagram accounts.
 - iii. We would like to raise money (\$100,000 minimum) to endow networking events for current athletes with former athletes (now alums).
 - iv. We would like to raise \$1,000,000 to endow FOSA's annual contribution to the college.
 - v. The college has approved creating an endowed fund for each team.
- III. Gail noted that the athletic department needs to raise at least \$800,000 per year, \$650,000 of which it needs just to operate, and \$150,000 of which it is required to give to the college. She explained that there were three buckets from which the athletic department raises money
 - a. Team fundraisers, such as Parents Night Out, Concession stand, etc.
 - b. FOSA giving

c. Parent giving

- IV. Brian DeMichele reported that FOSA will run an online auction April 7-14. He also said the college will christen a boat for John Onderdonk '89 who died recently. John is a Hall of Fame member as a rower.
- V. Bernardo reported that Division III week will be in April. He further reported that the on-campus interviews with candidates for Athletic Director will be in June during Belmont weekend.
- VI. Daniel thanked our student representatives, Brooke and Avery, for their service on the committee as both are graduating.
- VII. The students and our guest left. The committee then chose the recipient of the 2026 Tim Brown award.
- VIII. The next Athletic Council meeting is TBA.