Athletic Council Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2026
8:00-9:00 a.m. Williamson Sports Center Conference Room

Athletic Council Members Present: Karen Kellogg (Chair), Katie Benoit (AD), Adrian Bautista (DOSA), Kate Berheide, Megan Buchanan (SWA and SAAD), David Cohen (ADOF), Caitlyn Dion (SAAC), Tate Esler (SGA), Bernardo Ramirez Rios (FAR), and Mark Rye

I. Introductions
II. March 17, 2026 minutes approved
III. Review of Operating Code: No changes
IV. Updates from Katie (AD)
    a. Successful start to the fall season
    b. Early stages of site survey of the old baseball field to assess whether a new riding center should be built at that location or whether it should be renovated at its current location.
V. Updates from Megan (SAAD)
    a. Student athletes got leadership training over the past weekend.
    b. Discussion of the age-based eligibility model. Division III will vote on whether to adopt it at the NCAA conference in January.
VI. Updates from Bernardo Ramirez Rios (FAR)
    a. Bernardo will be attending the FARA annual meeting at the NCAA headquarters in Indianapolis in November.
    b. He sent a note to chairs and program directors asking them to take athletes' needs into account when scheduling courses as well as making attendance policy clear.
    c. We discussed the need for faculty to accommodate student athlete absences for competition.
    d. Bernardo will reach out to Corey Freeman-Gallant about incorporating Athletic Council's concerns with course scheduling and attendance policy in his regular communications with department chairs and program directors.
VII. Peer evaluation of physical activity courses. This year, Jill Greenleaf (swimming and diving), Elizabeth Ghilardi (lacrosse), and Joe Burke (basketball) need to be evaluated.
VIII. The increase in gas prices has heavily affected the travel budgets.
IX. Fundraising
    a. The Thoroughbred Cup will be held this weekend.
    b. All in to Win will run from September 30 to October 4. While the goal is $300,000, the hope is to exceed last year when over $429,000 was raised. The student athletes' participation is central to its fundraising success.
    c. Friends of Skidmore Athletics (FOSA) has to raise $150,000 to give back to the college every year in addition to whatever it raises for the athletic department.

X. We set October 19, November 16, and December 7 as Athletic Council meeting dates for the fall semester.