

Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee
Minutes
September 3, 2014

Attending: Craig Tovey, Reta Pikowsky, Tom Conte, Greg Nobles (by phone), Anne Polluck, Jen Abrams, Trevor Lindsay

Guests: Phyllis LaBaw (GTAA), Coach Heppler (GTAA-Golf)

9 Voting members/5 required for a quorum.

1. Committee members introduced themselves, as did the guests.
2. A motion was made to approve the Minutes from the August 27, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.
3. The meeting schedule was discussed and a time change to 5:00 PM-6:00 PM was approved. Dr. Tovey will determine if a room in Klaus can be reserved for the meetings.

The upcoming meeting dates are:

Wednesday, October 1, 2014, 5:00 PM

Wednesday, November 5, 2014, 5:00 PM

Wednesday, December 3, 2014, 5:00 PM

Note: The dates for Spring term will be reconfirmed in December.

Wednesday, January 7, 2014, 5:00 PM

Wednesday, February 4, 2014, 5:00 PM

Wednesday, March 4, 2014, 5:00 PM

Wednesday, April 1, 2014, 5:00 PM

Wednesday, May 6, 2014, 5:00 PM

4. Coach Heppler provided some background information on the Golf travel schedule and why it operates the way that it does. Factors mentioned in the discussion included:
 - a. GT does not own and operate its own golf course. Unlike the other sports, the Golf team has no facility to use. Travel, even locally, is therefore necessary.
 - b. At first, this was not clear, but during the course of the meeting two facts emerged.
 - i. Each event is attended by 5 or 6 out of the 9 golf team members. The average # of travel days is therefore less than 8.
 - ii. 2) Other sports teams such as the tennis team specify, before the semester starts, who will go to which event, thereby assuring that no one will miss more than 10 days even though there are more than 10 days of events. The golf team selects the 5 or 6 members who will represent Tech based on competition just prior to the event.

- iii. Therefore, we cannot be assured that no one will miss more than 10 days. Often, there are one or two stars on the team who go to all events.
 - c. Golf requires a practice day as a sport.
 - d. The event runs from morning to sunset, so the event stretches for an entire day.
 - e. Not all student-athletes attend every event.
 - f. The events that are scheduled are selected in part for the prestige. Recruiting good student-athletes and good students in this area is facilitated by a competitive, higher-profile competition schedule.
 - g. Golf student-athletes are very high performing students.
 - h. The culture of the Golf team is high performance in the sport and high performance in the classroom.
 - i. There is some confusion as to what the requirement of no more than 10 travel days means. The procedure last approved by the Committee mentions "class sessions."
 - j. Committee members pointed out that if the student-athlete is gone an entire day from campus, he/she is missing more than class sessions, which is why the original thought process on approving the travels days may have been focused on and limited to 10. It will be important to review the procedure and clarify what all of this means.
 - k. The tournament in Hawaii was discussed. This is scheduled partially over the weekend to limit the missed class days. It is a prestigious tournament that is important for the program.
 - l. The Fall and Spring schedules have been adjusted for this year, but this really hasn't solved the problem. It have just made both terms equally as difficult.
 - m. Committee members discussed the fact that the GTAA does provide details on which student-athletes are attending which of the events. So, the total number of travel dates does not affect the whole team the same way.
 - n. The possible solution of either changing the 10-day rule to 12 or to adjust the Golf schedule was discussed. Committee members saw no value at the end in changing the limit to 12 days instead of 10. They noted that another sport had altered its travel schedule to meet the 10-day rule. Again, the solution might lie in a review of the procedure to help determine what we are actually counting.
5. The discussion with Coach Heppler also raised the following questions that the Committee will consider at its October meeting. This issue has to be resolved as quickly as possible to ensure that the Spring travel schedule is approved and set.
- a. Does the 10-travel day limit make sense at this point in time, given all the factors? Was it really referring to days away from campus or class sessions missed?
 - b. Should any travel date over 10 be unexcused with the student left to negotiate individually with faculty to make up that work? This did not seem to resonate with Committee members, but should perhaps be examined again.
 - c. Can the procedure (attached herewith to the Minutes) be reviewed and clarified in some way to ensure that the intent of the 10-travel day limit is

- enforced correctly and that there is no confusion about whether it is referring to days away from campus or class sessions missed?
- d. Are there other factors that we have overlooked?
6. The Committee will prioritize the topics for future discussions at the next meeting. Dr. Kohn will be invited to attend the Nov. meeting if possible, since the October meeting will need to focus on review of the excused absence procedures and travel schedules for athletics.
- a. Meeting with Dr. Paul Kohn to discuss the profile of the 2014-2015 incoming class.
 - b. Meeting with Marie Mons, Director of Scholarships and Financial Aid, to learn about current status of aid on campus, challenges, upcoming changes, if any, etc.
 - c. Meeting with Dr. Susan Cozzens, or someone from Graduate Affairs, to discuss the make-up of the incoming class of graduate students, goals for next year, etc.
 - d. Role of the Committee in overseeing awards on campus. Committee members felt this could be handled by the Schools having the authority with any issues or questions brought to SAFAC as needed.
 - e. Title IX concerns might be discussed to determine if there are any implications related to the scope of this Committee.

Adjourned,

Dr. Craig Tovey, ISyE