

Faculty Athletic Committee

Minutes

March 20, 2024

Via Zoom - 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

1. Roll call

Present: Shana Halalilo (Co-Athletic Director), Dr. Erika Derkas (Sociology), Cody Cole (Assistant Athletic Director of Compliance and Student Success), Dr. Melanie Zollner (Business), Dr. Seonsook Park (Education), Dr. Benjamin Bencomo (Social Work) and Dr. Moreira (Business). Absent: Jim Deisler (Co-Athletic Director) and Dr. William Hayward (FAR).

2. Meeting called to order at 8:00 AM

3. Approval of the Agenda, motion made by Dr. Zollner, second by Dr. Moreira. All in favor, motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes for 2.7.2024 by Dr. Derkas, second by Dr. Moreira. All in favor, motion carried.

5. Shanna Halalilo – Co-Athletic Director’s report

- The Winter Sports season is over.
- Two student athletes competed at Nationals placing 7th and 8th place.
- The Indoor Track Team season is over and Indoor Track Team is starting a new season.
- The Administration is planning a Gala for May 1.
- New hires for the following teams: Softball, Interim Scott Peterson; Soccer Team, Amanda Evans; and Wrestling Program Chris Freije.
- Current search: Coach for the Women’s Basketball Team.

6. Cody Cole – (Assistant Athletic Director of Compliance and Student Success).

- Coaches are currently recruiting for Winter and Spring sports.
- The National Letter of Intent ends August 1st. This is a contract between HU and the athlete. A one-year agreement contract that provides financial aid/scholarship to athletes. The contract has an option for renewal.
- Fall sports start in August.

7. New Business

- Letter from Faculty Senate: The Co-Athletic Directors received a letter on February 22, 2024 from the Faculty Senate indicating a concern on communication between the Athletic Department and the Faculty. Co-Athletic Director, Shawna Halalilo drafted and submitted a response to Dr. Fath, Faculty Senate Chair. At the time of our meeting, Shawna had not received a response. The Faculty Athletic Committee agreed that Dr. Bencomo, Faculty Athletic Committee Chair should draft a response letter to the Faculty Senate addressing their concerns.
- Review of faculty Senate Charge to Faculty Athletic Committee: The committee went over the charges on the Faculty Handbook.: Section V:E.5 (see below).

Excerpt from the Faculty Handbook: Section V:E.5.

5. Duties and Responsibilities

- a. Work to support the student-athlete's academic and nonacademic learning and development
- b. Work to promote and support the Highlands Athletic program
- c. Review and monitor all athletic programs of the university to ensure that such programs are of benefit primarily to the student-athletes and that policies reflect local needs and interests of the university community.
- d. Maintain open communication with the Compliance Officer, Athletic Director, and FAR in terms of Highlands compliance with applicable athletic associations and conference rules and regulations.
- e . Maintain open communication with the Compliance Officer, Athletic Director, and FAR in terms of Highland's conformity to the regulations of Title IX. Bring issues of compliance raised by faculty to the Compliance Officer, Athletic Director and FAR and assist these individuals as requested. Report results back to faculty.
- f. Review and make recommendations to the Athletic Department and the university administration for any additions or eliminations to the athletic program.

- g. Work with the athletic department and administration to minimize the impact of practice schedules, games, and postseason competition on student-athlete's academic success.
 - h. Act as a hearing board for appeals from student-athletes in regard to matters of participation, transfer, or termination in an athletic program and other issues as appropriate. Due process guidelines shall be followed, and a requested hearing should be scheduled in a timely manner. A hearing board shall be composed of at least three (or more) members of the Faculty Athletic Committee. Mediation may be attempted before an actual meeting if both parties agree.
 - Per Faculty Senate Charge, Dr. Zollner, Faculty Athletic Committee Chair AY 2022-2023 submitted a Faculty Athletic Committee Report for AY 2022 – 2023, to Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Fath and Secretary, Dr. Lindline in October 5, 2023. The report was clear and addressed the charges for the Faculty Athletic Committee.
8. Old Business - Tabled for next meeting due to time constraints.
- Intercession Dates
 - Early Alert
9. Announcements:
- Dr. Moreira shared that he is working with Reynaldo Maestas on opportunities for students through Career Services. Shawna and Cody are interested in helping student athletes' transition to careers.
 - Dr. Derkas proposed reaching out to Dr. Hayward about his position status.
 - Dr. Bencomo shared information on a Child Abuse Awareness event, April 20.
10. Next meeting date and plan: April 17 at 8 AM.
11. Adjournment, motion made by Dr. Derkas, second by Dr. Moreira. All in favor, motion carried. 9:00 AM.