



Faculty Athletic Committee

Minutes

2/14/25

8:00am – 9:00am

Zoom Meeting: <https://nmhu.zoom.us/join/5054543479>

- Call to Order :
 - Members Present: Mario Gonzales, Seonsook Park, Kathy Jenkins (chair), Ben Bencomo (FAR)
 - Members Absent: Shanna Halalilo (AD)
 - Others in attendance: Craig Cox
- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of the Minutes – 9/12/24- (minutes approved 2-0)
- Ongoing Athletic Department Reports
 - Athletic Directors' Reports – Shanna Halalilo – no report
 - NMHU now has one AD
 - Title IX – Athletics will send us the Title IX report from October 24 and we will discuss at our next meeting - Craig
 - FAR Report- Ben - see attached report
- Old Business
 - The Assistant Athletic Director of Compliance and Success was replaced with
 - Recognition of Academic Success for Spring 2024 Student Athletes – Athletics will send the list of students for next meeting in March- Craig
- New Business
 - Election
 - Secretary- no nominees
 - Committee Discussion on Plan for this year
 - Title IX report- Athletics will send us for next meeting - OCT
 - Student Athlete GPA report- Athletics will run report for next meeting – Fall 2024 report. The committee decided that at our next meeting we will talk about the strategies Athletics is using to improve student success (Closing the loop on the data- what can we do to improve GPA and success, like standardized grade checks, etc....) - Craig

- Student Awards for Fall 2024? List of students will be sent by Athletics for next agenda
- Announcements. Feb 20 half time will honor fall 2024 GPA- above 3.5 (about 50) will receive a check from H Club. Will also invite a professor to accompany them. 100.00 for 4.0 GPA, 50.00 for 3.5
- Adjournment

FAR Report to FAC

2/14/25

- FAR has reviewed one student appeal to the RMAC since our last meeting.
- FAR has met with Craig Cox, Student Athlete Success Coordinator, on 2 occasions since the last FAC meeting. During these meetings we have discussed current efforts to support academic success for student athletes, current barriers to success, faculty concerns related to student academic performance (and especially attendance in class), and possible ways to increase communication and mutual support for student athletes academic success between faculty and athletics staff. It is hoped that these meetings will continue between FAR and Student Athlete Success Coordinator as often as needed and no less than once per month.
- FAR reported that he had the opportunity to travel with a group of NMHU staff and administration to include the FAR Ben Bencomo, Associate Vice President of SEM Benito Pacheco, Registrars Transfer Credits Analyst & Systems Administrator Cheryl Trujillo, Athletic Director Shanna Halalilo, Head Football Coach Kurt Taufa'asau, and Linebackers Coach and Co-Special Teams Coordinator Ben Langford, to American Samoa from 1/27/25 through 2/4/25. During this time in American Samoa, the team focused on building relationships with local educators (faculty, teachers, coaches, and administrators) at local high schools and at American Samoa Community College (ASCC). The team visited 8 local high schools as well as ASCC, hosted 3 evening events for students, educators, coaches, and families, attended local sporting events, hosted a football clinic, met with the American Samoa Department of Education administrators and staff, and met with the Lieutenant Governor and members of the Senate for American Samoa. FAR reported that in addition to recruitment of student athletes, the team also focused on non-athletic recruiting of students as well. FAR was able to represent academic programs and discuss academic supports available to potential students throughout the trip. The FAR was also able to lay the foundation with administrators and faculty at ASCC for articulation agreements in business and social work. The trip was highly successful with sports scholarship offers being extended to football and softball players, and academic scholarship offers being extended to many other students as well. Approximately 95 students from American Samoa applied to NMHU for Fall 2025 admission during and after the trip. FAR and the FAC also discussed the need to build

supportive systems for students from American Samoa to help support retention efforts of those students who end up attending NMHU.

- FAR will follow up with Student Athlete Success Coordinator to discuss a more consistent and formalized system to communicate between faculty and athletics coaches and staff to monitor student athlete attendance and academic performance.