

**Athletics Committee
Minutes
29 October 2025**

Attendees

Voting Members Present:

- Cindy Black - Assistant Professor, Counseling Department
- Seonsook Park - Professor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Rio Rancho
- Mario Gonzales - Professor, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice

Ex-Officio Members Present:

- Ben Bencomo - Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR), Associate Professor, School of Social Work
- Scott Noble – Athletic Director
- Craig Cox - Student Athlete Achievement Coordinator/Assistant Athletic Director

Members Absent:

- Jedediah Bragg - Assistant Professor, School of Social Work

Call to Order

- Cindy Black called the meeting to order at 8:02am

Scott Noble:

- Introduced himself and his philosophy
- Gave updates on athletics and support of athletes
 - Made a promise to faculty—if he is made aware of an issue, he will fix it
 - Communication is key; Shared his cell phone
 - Expectations of athletes: notify instructors, department offers team building, study hall, mentorship

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion by Dr. Park to approve the minutes; Dr. Gonzales seconded; Motion passed unanimously

Committee Introductions:

- Due to new members, introductions were conducted again:
 - **Cindy Black:** Assistant Professor, Counseling Department, second year at Highlands
 - **Scott Noble:** Athletic Director

- **Seonsook Park:** 16 years at Highlands, third year on Athletic Committee, stationed at Rio Rancho; Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education
- **Mario Gonzales:** 22nd year at Highlands, Cultural Anthropologist, new to Athletic Committee (joined end of last semester)
- **Ben Bencomo:** Associate Professor, Social Work, second year as FAR, previously served as committee chair
- **Craig Cox:** Student Athlete Achievement Coordinator/Assistant Athletic Director

Ongoing Business

- **Academic Support System Development:**
 - **Background:** Committee discussed developing a standardized grade check system beyond midterms and finals.
 - **Current Challenge:** Need for early intervention (4-5 week mark) to support struggling student-athletes without overburdening faculty.
 - **Discussion:** grade checks; Scott indicated there were some barriers including the inputting of grades and identifying athletes in the class
 - **Scott:** what they really need to know is who isn't attending class and participating; indicated that mid-term grades are mandatory at NMHU, which is a plus
 - Athletes must pass 9 hours to keep their scholarship; 1 F=study hall session w/Craig; 2 F=2nd 8 week class added
 - Work on flexibility of scheduling for athletes; be cognizant of championship season and corresponding 8 week classes
 - **Craig:** NMHU has an early alert system which provided notification of students struggling; attendance only; the system is not mandatory and has spotty use
 - Conversation has been what is least cumbersome for faculty, while getting the communication that Athletics needs
 - Idea: 1 or 2 question survey: Do you have concerns?
 - **Dr. Park:** Faculty Early Warning System – Does Craig have access?
 - List of athletes to faculty
 - Scott: Information is in Banner regarding who is an athlete; He will look into how to pull up that information; are students coded as athlete
 - Brightspace-main tool for communication between faculty and student; does not identify students as athletes
 - **Craig:** At risk list for athletics

New Business

- **Next Meetings Scheduled:**
 - **November 13, 2025** at 8:00 AM
 - *Note: Seonsook Park will be absent from November meeting due to conference*
 - Ongoing Agenda Items
 - Supporting Student Athletes
 - Need for 2nd 8 week/Intersession courses

Adjournment

- **Motion to Adjourn:** Seonsook Park
- **Second:** Mario Gonzales
- **Vote:** Approved unanimously
- **Time:** 9:02 AM MDT