

Committee on Athletics Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 18, 2023 Meeting #2 – In-Person/Zoom

Present: Chris Karadjov, Madeleine Liseblad, Brenda Vogel, Bobby Smitheran, Larissa Santos, Arline Walter, Gary Metzker, Milton Ordonez, Kevin Valenzuela, Vincent Le, Brian Coriarty, Cara Richards-Tudor, Anthony Regina, Sara Corona, Kurt Escobar, and Michael Solt

1. **Call to Order** at 3:15 p.m.
2. **Meeting agenda approved.**
3. **Approval of minutes** from September 20, 2023: Minutes approved with two adjustments.
4. **Report from Bobby Smitheran, CSULB Executive Director of Athletics** – Bobby Smitheran discussed the latest athletic team events. Women’s volleyball won against Hawaii in straight sets; Hawaii was the preseason Big West favorite. It was the first sweep of Hawaii since 1997. We are hosting the Big West Championships over the Thanksgiving weekend. Women’s soccer beat UC San Diego and are tied for third in conference games. Both golf programs are doing well. The men’s fall season is complete. The women’s team recently won their first regular season tournament championship since 2015. Men’s waterpolo only has a couple of matches left in the regular season. Women’s cross country recently won a meet in Riverside. Both basketball programs are preparing for the start of the season. Chris Karadjov asked about Big West rankings. Bobby said they are being released today.

Cameron Cecil was hired as the new head of student-athlete development. The program she will lead is sort of like a lifeskills program that is tailored to educational levels (freshmen, senior etc.). Cameron is a former Beach softball player.

CSULB has been participating in the NCAA social media campaign focusing on diversity and inclusion. We’ve been posting content on our social media platforms.

The NCAA has an Athletics Diversity and Inclusion Designees (ADID) position. Raul Pacheco is our ADID and he will help with diversity and inclusion items related to policy, hiring practices etc. He reports to HR.

We submitted athletic performance rates related to eligibility and retention on Monday. No teams are subject to any penalties; all are meeting thresholds.

Arline Walter asked about name/image/likeness (NIL). Bobby discussed how it’s a hot topic. Athletes are asking “what are you going to give me?” They can get money for the use of their name/image/likeness.

Bobby discussed the campus community and how they are reviewing how to better interact and engage, especially with students. Michael Solt asked if there was a higher

level of engagement at SDSU, perhaps driven by football. Bobby explained that traditionally basketball has been the driver.

Chris Karadjov asked about repairs to the pyramid. Bobby said there is a second study taking place right now and we're waiting for that report. They are working on a Plan B if there are rain issues. Gary Metzker asked about the Long Beach convention center; we used it years ago. That location would come with challenges and may be costly to use.

5. **Presentation by Gary Metzker on Sports Journalism class** – Gary Metzker is in his 16th year at CSULB. He worked at the Los Angeles Times before joining us. Metzker has won four Pulitzer Prizes and worked with design at the LAT.

Gary created JOUR 318 which is a sports journalism class. It's not a typical skills class. Instead Gary invites sports journalists to speak about their jobs. Students meet with the guest speaker and have to write a story within two hours. Recently they had Lakers play-by-play announcer John Ireland in the class. Gary has 21 students this semester; they are juniors/seniors.

Gary talked about Luca Evans who was suspended by USC after he violated their media guidelines.

There was a discussion about media training for student-athletes. Bobby Smitheran explained there is conversation and preparation before student-athletes do interviews.

Chris Karadjov said the Daily 49er is very attentive to athletics.

6. **Discussion of [COA description, updates and changes](#)** – Chris Karadjov showed the current COA description. It was last revised in 2010. The COA reports to the Academic Senate; we've been asked to review our charge.

Brenda Vogel has a document where she has made some changes to the charge, mostly editing language. Brenda explained we used to do a lot under #2 in our charge in terms of the reports. Some items under #2 need to be reviewed and be clarified. For example, the COA is supposed to review ICA academic policies but what does that mean? We get reports, but we don't necessarily review policies. Arline Walter mentioned how everyone on the committee used to have access to the budget. Brenda said some of the items are mandated under state law. Some other items are mandated under federal law or set by the NCAA.

Chris Karadjov discussed committee membership. It has a lecturer (full or part-time) as a member for one year. Chris is wondering if, for consistency, it shouldn't be a two-year commitment. Chris asked about students having a two-year commitment. Larissa Santos said it would be nice to have consistency. Madeleine Liseblad mentioned that a two-year appointment is not feasible for a senior. Michael Solt said two-year appointments may not be realistic for all roles. Bobby Smitheran suggested the athletic compliance director serve on the COA.

Chris Karadjov will work with Brenda Vogel to write a new document on the COA charge to be reviewed at the next meeting. We will only review it at the next meeting and will wait to vote.

7. **Adjournment:** Meeting ended at 4:28 p.m. The next meeting is November 15.

COA: <https://www.csulb.edu/academic-senate/committee-athletics-coa>

Recurring Zoom link: <https://csulb.zoom.us/j/84550458692>