

**Committee on Athletics Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 19, 2023 Meeting #6 – In-Person/Zoom**

**Present:** Sandra Shirley, Andrew Vaca, Milton Ordonez, Maga-Jui Marape, Arline Walter, Madeleine Liseblad, Ted Kadowaki, Jana Fogaca, Chris Karadjov, Xuan Huang, Cara Richards-Tutor, Loren Edwards, and Tyler Hildebrand

1. **Call to Order** at 3:32 p.m.
2. **Meeting agenda approved.**
3. **Approval of minutes** from March 15, 2023: Minutes approved with one minor adjustment.
4. **Announcements**
  - a. **Fee increase approved** – Ted Kadowaki said the President approved an increase to go into effect this fall. It is a slightly smaller amount than previously discussed, but exciting and positive for athletics. Milton Ordonez asked how the smaller amount will affect athletics. Ted said it means \$3.5 million instead of \$4.1 million the first year. A staggered approach to the fee increase was a recommendation from the Student Fee Advisory Committee.
  - b. **Women’s head basketball coach resigned, new coach hired** – Ted Kadowaki said a new head coach was named Monday. Amy Wright officially begins later this month. Ted is excited to have her start.
  - c. **Next meeting** – Maga-Jui Marape brought up that the next meeting is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> which is commencement. That means several people can’t make the COA meeting. Chris Karadjov suggested an online poll to find out how members want to handle the May meeting. A motion was made and passed for the online poll.
  - d. **Future meetings** - Chris Karadjov brought up that we also have an issue with our first meeting each school year because the semester hasn’t started yet. Jana Fogaca pointed out we had this discussion in September about moving the August meeting. Andrew Vaca said when he was committee chair he mapped out meeting dates and packed items on certain dates. Chris made a motion for COA to meet three times per semester (September, October, November / February, March, April), on the third Wednesday of the month. It was seconded and voted on by the committee. Motion passed. Chris will bring this to the Faculty Senate.
5. **Report from the Bickerstaff Academic Center** on their work with student athletes Sandra Shirley, Director of Academic Advising and Loren Edwards, Assistant Director Academic Support Services

Sandra Shirley gave an overview of some of the items the Academic Center does - academic advising and support for athletes on campus, help coaches with recruiting visits, and help with enrollment services. Student-athletes are encouraged to use other services on campus too. They also work with Student Orientation, Advising and

Registration (SOAR), and talk to students about majors. They do a remote learning survey and have confidential screening about educational services to see if they need any academic help. The center coordinates all advising, see every single student-athlete, and work with the FAR. The average GPA across all sports has not dipped below 3.0 since COVID. The graduation success rate is 88% for student-athletes on scholarship and they work with them to ensure they are on track for graduation.

Loren Edwards said they service just under 400 athletes over the 19 intercollegiate sports. They also offer peer mentoring for scholar-athletes; these peer mentors become great support. There's also a peer tutoring program. Services at the Center are hybrid; they offer both in person and online. Loren teaches incoming freshmen a skills class to help them transition to college. It's a lot of "how to" items. There is also an academic coaching program, similar to peer mentoring, but more of a drop-in program as issues arise during the semester.

They work closely with a mental health resources specialist/case manager for athletics, Caitlin Broadwell. Arline Walter asked where Caitlin's office is; it's in the athletic training office. Milton Ordonez asked about tutoring hours. Loren said the office staff staggers hours so that there is someone in the office, even in the evening, to help accommodate athletes.

Ted Kadowaki pointed out that Bickerstaff Academic Center staff is a part of Academic Services from a management standpoint. They work with athletes but are managed under Academic Affairs.

6. **Report from Tyler Hildebrand** (Women's Head Volleyball Coach) on training, recruitment, and strategy for the program

Tyler Hildebrand said their season is in the fall, but the team currently practices basically every day. Tyler played at LBSU and came back to coach here last January. The program was one of the top ones in the nation in the 1990s, but we fell off and are on our way back up in the ratings/rankings. Attendance is up (doubled from prior year) which is great because it brings in revenue. Tyler discussed how important it is that the program is supported by the community. Because social media is important for support, they are trying to do a better job with it; helps with both recruitment and community. They have been focusing a lot on Instagram.

The goal for women's volleyball is to win The Big West and make it to the national tournament. We will be hosting the 2023 conference championship tournament. Our fall schedule is going to be tough; we're playing a lot of great teams to help prepare for The Big West. We want to get back to national relevance. Recruiting has gone really well with 15 new players. Roster will be large.

Tyler commented how a lot of academic advisors have athletic backgrounds and it helps. Our student-athletes juggle a lot. It's Tyler's first stint as a DI head coach; he feels a big

responsibility for his student-athletes. He wants them to do well on the volleyball court and in the classroom.

Arline Walter asked when practice starts in the fall. Tyler said it's the week of Aug. 7. Tyler asked about a potential pre-season mixer and faculty participating. Sandra Shirley suggested he invites favorite faculty members of the athletes on the team.

7. **Adjournment:** Meeting ended at 4:38 p.m. The next meeting is TBD.

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

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