

Committee on Athletics Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 15, 2023 Meeting #3 – In-Person/Zoom

Present: Madeleine Liseblad, Bobby Smitheran, Larissa Santos, Sandra Shirley, Michael Solt, Milton Ordonez, Damian Zavala, Kevin Valenzuela, Kimberly Farrell, Anthony Regina, Sarah Corona, Perla Ayala, Vincent Le, and Erica Piurkowski

1. **Call to Order** at 3:17 p.m.
2. **Meeting agenda approved.**
3. **Approval of minutes** from October 18, 2023: Minutes approved.
4. **Report from Erica Piurkowski, Associate Athletics Director, Compliance**
Erika Piurkowski highlighted hot topics in NCAA compliance.

Transfer legislation - Student-athletes no longer need to seek permission from their coach if they want to transfer. Each sport has a time period where athletes can enter the NCAA transfer portal. The window is open for 45 days for each sport; last year it was 60 days. If a head coach leaves, there is an additional 30-day window. Anyone can enter the transfer portal. Michael Solt asked if we have student-athletes using the portal. Bobby Smitheran explained that we do and it goes both ways (student-athletes leaving/coming). Erika Piurkowski explained that student-athletes can only transfer one time unless they meet certain criteria. Michael asked if the NCAA is monitoring this and Erika explained that there is form that has to be filled out.

Sports wagering - Erika Piurkowski said sports wagering has been in the news recently. Issues in Iowa has led to changes in legislation. Anyone who works in the Athletic Department cannot place a bet on any sport that has an NCAA championship. That includes fantasy leagues and internet sports wagering. Milton Ordonez asked if it was allowed if there is a donation fee to participate, Erika explained it is not allowed. There is a penalty structure in place.

Name, Image And Likeness (NIL) - Erika Piurkowski explained an interim policy was created by the NCAA in July 2021. It was signed into California law later that year. There have been a lot of challenges and questions so the policy has been updated several times. CSULB has its own policy that we have vetted through legal counsel. Michael Solt asked about pay-for-play and Erika explained you can't be paid for performance. It has to be a standard pay rate. Bobby Smitheran said federal legislation is a work in progress and the NCAA framework is there. CSULB cannot act like an agent for a student-athlete; we cannot represent them. The athletic department bought a software system last year where businesses and student-athletes sign up. Businesses pay student-athletes through the system and it helps us see what our student-athletes are involved in. We have had athletes signed up with companies.

5. **Report from Bobby Smitheran, CSULB Executive Director of Athletics**

Because the COA was meeting on a rainy day, the big question was how the pyramid was doing. Bobby Smitheran said the pyramid was fairing ok so far. He gets a lot of questions about preparation and said we need to be more proactive to ensure we have a good home environment for our student-athletes. We want to avoid using our back-up plans.

Women's volleyball is in a three-way tie for second place; second place finisher gets a bye so it's a big deal. We are hosting the Big West Women's Volleyball Championships.

Women's soccer lost to UC Irvine in penalty kicks. That means they have been eliminated from post-season play. They finished 10-6-4 this season and are returning a lot of young starters next year. The team has a solid overall GPA.

The men's and women's golf programs have wrapped up their seasons.

Women's tennis competed at the UNLV Classic. Two of the doubles teams won and one singles player won her singles draw. Fall season has concluded.

The men's and women's cross country teams have finished their season; ended at NCAA Regionals. The women finished 18th while the men finished 21st.

Men's water polo is participating in the Big West tournament this weekend at UC San Diego.

Men's basketball is underway and women's basketball kicked off their first season with a new head coach.

Bobby Smitheran mentioned the House vs. NCAA lawsuit where former student-athletes are suing the NCAA for backpay because they could not get NIL. It's a class action lawsuit that is set to go to trial in January 2025 and it has the potential to bring big changes. Bobby also discussed CA Assembly Bill 252 that would establish the College Athletic Protection Act (CAP). It's a revenue sharing act and it is coming back in the next legislative cycle. Larissa Santos asked if the CSU system is opposed to it and Bobby said we are because it could make it tough for the Athletic Department. Larissa mentioned there is a legislative committee as a part of ASI and they are travelling to Sacramento in March; Anthony Regina is on ASI's legislative committee.

The Athletic Department is hiring a Director of Development and they are at the campus visit stage. This is an important position and they hope to have someone in place by Jan. 1. Athletics is also about to host its first Hall of Fame event in six years. Two teams and 11 individuals will be honored. Kimberly Farrell asked who the teams are; Bobby Smitheran said it's under embargo.

Damian Zavala asked if the track was finished and Bobby Smitheran replied that it is ready to go.

6. Discussion and vote on COA description updates and changes for submission to Academic Senate

The committee reviewed proposed changes to the COA description that were submitted by Faculty Athletic Representative Brenda Vogel. A motion was made to vote on the document as a whole document vs. line by line. The motion passed. Then there was a motion to adopt the whole document as is and the motion passed. It goes to the Faculty Senate next.

7. **Adjournment:** Meeting ended at 4:02 p.m. The next meeting is February 21.

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

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