

# Committee on Athletics

Minutes for Academic Year 2024-2025

Hybrid – Kin 69 & Zoom | Meeting #6 | April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 3:00 PM

In Attendance: Chris Karadjov, Jake Conlon, Arline Walter, Khue Duong, Bobby Smitheran, Kimberly Farell, Perla Ayala, Alison Ede, Damian Zavala, Sandra Shirley, Grace Reynolds-Fisher, Loren Edwards

## **I. Calling the Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:19 PM.

## **II. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved at 3:20 PM.

## **III. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 were approved at 3:22 PM.

## **IV. Agenda**

### **a. Report from Bobby Smitheran, Executive Director of Athletics**

- It is hard to believe that this is the last meeting of the year.
- Monday was Black and Gold event, our end of year celebration for our student-athletes where we give out awards and superlatives. Arline and Mike Walter were there.
- There are some current administrative impacts because of evolving federal policies. The current tariffs are affecting our costs but we are working with Nike to try to avoid rising costs. Visa policies are also evolving because of policy changes. There is a lot of uncertainty right now, especially with our close to 60 international students. Recruitment and international competition is also a concern but our CIE office is heading this.
- House vs NCAA updates are here. The judge did not act on final settlement because she wants attorneys to have more dialogue. This could determine whether or not to grandfather roster numbers, however this might not change. There are also concerns about lumping future student athletes into an agreement that former student athletes settled. The judge will probably approve the settlement later as is.
- Arline asked if this is an all or nothing agreement.
- Seems like it will be. We have opted in! All Big West teams have as well. This will be effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Arline asked for the 2 sports that will be the most impacted.

- Baseball would be heavily affected, they would go from 11.7 scholarships to 34 and 40 roster spots to 34. Men's Volleyball would go from 4.5 scholarships to 18 and 23 roster spots to 18. Some sports can have full allotment of scholarships.
- There is a current congressional hearing regarding the future status of student-athletes and employees. This would make our lives very difficult.
- Arline commented that this would make it harder to get recruits to commit.
- We just surpassed \$1.2M in ticket sales, a new department record.
- We are looking to backfill positions that have been open in our department.
- Men's Volleyball had been ranked #1 in nation for 12 weeks now. They recently had a sell out against Hawaii in which we won the tie breakers for the Big West seeding. We return to Hawaii soon for conference championship.
- Baseball won their recent series against CSU Bakersfield. They are currently in 8<sup>th</sup> but conference but are hoping to make a push for top 5 to make the conference championship.
- Women's Golf finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in conference championship. We are hoping for an at large birth to NCAA tournament.
- Men's Golf recently won the Cowboy Tournament. We are excited for post season push to make the conference championship and NCAA tournament.
- Beach Volleyball recently swept the Husky Invitational. They also recently upset #6 Cal Poly SLO.
- Softball has hit a rough patch but they have 3 series remaining.
- Women's Water Polo are 5-1. UCI will be hosting the conference championship at end of month.
- Women's Tennis has largely freshman roster. Head coach, Jenny Hilt-Costello, is retiring at the end of the season. They swept UC Riverside in their last home event.
- Track and field will be hosting an event tomorrow. There will be 2500 individuals and 130 teams competing. Women's 400 and Pole Vault as well as Men's 100m records have been broken this year. May 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting the conference championships. This will be the last major event for head coach Andy Sythe.
- Arline asked if all conference champions go to the NCAA tournament.
- Yes, there are two ways of qualifying, winning your conference championship and getting an at-large bid.

b. Sandra Shirley, Director of Academic Advising, & Loren Edwards, Director of Academic Support Services - Bickerstaff Academic Center

Sandra

- At the beginning of last academic year, we received a grant to upgrade our facility. 74-inch TVs and upgraded technology were among the new renovations. We want to show athletes what other teams on campus are doing and how they are performing with videos/pictures as they walk into the center.

- We are the primary resource for NCAA student athletes on campus. We offer academic advising where we help them balance their schedules and ensure they are in the correct courses. There is mandatory advising every semester for all athletes. We are connected with other advisors so we refer out when necessary if we don't have the answer ourselves.
- We also support and monitor student progress, working with incoming students as well. We send surveys to see where they are at academically and check in when necessary. We also offer tutors, mentors, study hall, and academic skills workshops.
- Our University 101 class helps students who are undeclared explore options for their major. MyMajors, a software we have available, gives top 10 majors for students based on their class history and grades in previous courses.
- Arline mentioned that the basketball coach has students coming in for summer school and asked if the department is working with them.
- When they are in class they are monitored, even during the summer.
- Arline asked what role the center has in the recruiting process.
- Some coaches bring them in to tour the center and some don't. We provide what we can on occasions when we are not in the office.
- Loren mentioned that we had a Men's Basketball recruit here this morning for a tour. Bobby announced that he committed, so the center must have done a fantastic job.
- Veteran coaches know how to better sell our center and resources since they are more familiar with what we offer. Coaches have 24-hour access to our office which is great from late night or weekend tours.
- We always keep track with stats of our student performance. We are impressed with our coaching staff since recently the students coming in are more serious about the school side of things.

Loren

- Our student are our partners in ensuring their success. We have services, but our students have a responsibility too.
- The Black and Gold banquet was held earlier this week. I am so proud of our student-athletes.
- I describe our work as high touch intrusive work. Our in house tutoring is impactful. We have a student mentor program, host team-based study halls and much more.
- We know our athletes time is limited so having a dedicated time to do homework and study is helpful
- Over 50% of our athletes receive specialized services. We also partner with learning centers in COB and CNSM. Tutoring has been a challenge since COVID especially because hiring is an issue.
- Our peer mentoring is big program. I want every to have a peer mentor, but for now they are available as an at-need basis. 121 students have participated in the program over ther last 3 semesters.

- We have a great partnership with sports psych program on campus. Several student athletes have reached out to be mentors.
- Arline asked if the peer mentors are paid.
- Yes, in fact, the positions are part of a union.
- Chris asked what the typical mentoring session looks like.
- Grade checks, next week look ahead and academic planning are among the topics discussed in these meetings. Students seem to like the accountability aspect of the meetings that can be conducted on a weekly or biweekly basis.
- Our most intrusive work is done in the fall because we have more new students. We are getting great response rates from academic progress reports.
- Our BeAChampion program has been slowly growing. The program will now include Freshman Foundation, Sophomore Success, Junior Journey, Senior Sendoff. Freshman and Senior classes are offered in the fall. Sophomore and Junior classes will be offered in the spring. The first sophomore class will be offered in Spring 2026. We plan on adding the Junior class the following year.
- Arline asked what percentage of students are taking classes online.
- We don't have exact information on that, but we do know that about 85% of classes offered at CSULB are in person classes.

#### **V. Announcements**

There were no additional announcements made.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

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**Committee on Athletics:** <https://www.csulb.edu/academic-senate/committee-athletics-coa>  
**Recurring Zoom Link:** <https://csulb.zoom.us/j/84826104444>