

Committee on Athletics

Minutes for Academic Year 2024-2025

Hybrid – COB 204 & Zoom | Meeting #4 | February 19th, 2025 @ 3:00 PM

In Attendance: Chris Karadjov, Jake Conlon, Arline Walter, Milton Ordonez, Brenda Vogel, Khue Duong, Kimberly Farell, Bobby Smitheran, Perla Ayala, Alison Ede, Tiffany Edlin, Stephen Glass, Brian Coriaty, Damian Zavala, Kevin Valenzuela, Jaydee Phung, Tirth Dave, Aidah Nishad

I. Calling the Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 PM.

II. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved at 3:07 PM.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from November 20th, 2024 were approved at 3:11 PM.

IV. Agenda

a. Chair's Report – Chris Karadjov, Chair of Committee on Athletics

- No news to report.

b. Report from Bobby Smitheran, Executive Director of Athletics

- We are in midst of cross over within our programs. 14 out of our 19 programs are currently in season.
- The last 6 weeks have been auspicious. The Pacific Palisades fires have interfered with many events in the area. We hosted some UCLA sporting event recently. We are proud to help, and we know it was the right thing to do.
- There was a failure of cosmetic ceiling of the Walter Pyramid after hosting UCLA Women's Basketball. Because of this, we took pyramid offline for 2 weeks. We still held practices, but no large-scale events. The structure of the building was always sound, this was a cosmetic ceiling in a loading doc. We suspect that the ceiling was compromised by the recent winds.
- Chris asked if there were any updates on the other issues with the Walter Pyramid discussed previously in this committee, noting the recent rains.
- A second study is being conducted to see if it would be feasible to further waterproof the pyramid.

- Men's Volleyball is currently undefeated and ranked first in the nation. The team is really talented. Freshman setter, Moni Nikolov, is a bright point.
- Men's Basketball and Baseball programs are in transition periods with new head coaches and moving pieces. Basketball has lost 7 games by 1 possession, but we are impressed by how they stay together.
- Women's Basketball is in 5th place in conference. They are going through a little rough patch recently. We are excited to go on conference run as the tournament is approaching. Head coach Amy Wright is doing well with alumni relations.
- Kim added that Amy is doing a great job with creating a legacy with alumni, leading to new relationships and bringing back donors for the program and department in general.
- Softball's home opener against #3 Oklahoma went 11 innings. We were so close to winning, but unfortunately couldn't pull off the upset. We are projected #1 in Big West Conference.
- Baseball began their season with a 19-6 win with their new coach TJ Bruce. We will be hosting Bark in the Park events this season, so bring your dogs to these games when you can.
- Both Golf programs have conference championship aspirations this year. The Women's team beat San Diego State recently. The Men's team finished 4th in their recent event.
- Women's Tennis won twice over the weekend. Coach Jenny Hilt-Costello is retiring after nearly 30 years of service.
- Women's Water Polo starts conference play on March 1st.
- Beach Volleyball is currently ranked #10. Two juniors, Malia Gementera and Taylor Hagenah, already have most wins in program history.
- Track and Field wraps up their season this weekend. There were a number of school records broken. Coach Andy Sythe is retiring after 35 years of service.
- On February 5th, we celebrated the 2025 Hall of Fame class. Women's Soccer, Baseball, Softball and Men's Volleyball all had players inducted.
- Mike and Arline Walter have been great supporters of our department for years and we are very grateful for their assistance.
- GPA statistics for Fall 2024 were recently released. Our programs had an average GPA of 3.28. Women's Golf led all women's programs with a GPA of 3.77 and Baseball led all men's programs with a GPA of 3.13. We saw 326 of our student-athletes receive academic all-star status. 53 of our student athletes finished with 4.0 GPAs. 56% of academic all-stars earned President's or Dean's List recognition.
- 10 out of our 17 teams received perfect APRs. 4 teams posted a perfect 4 year average. The average throughout all programs was 985. This automatically qualifies CSULB for academic distribution unit. The formulation will be done soon, but the school could receive upwards of \$100K for this. No teams subject to post season penalties. We recently applied for a grant for accelerated academic success. We contributed \$20K and invested in a few academic programs for our student athletes: *Be a Champion* life skills

program, Bickerstaff academic support space, and a communication service Helper-Helper. We are eligible to apply again for a second year in a row.

- The House vs NCAA lawsuit is still ongoing. This would allow student athletes who did not get paid to be compensated for lost opportunities.
- The financial burden would be \$215k a year for 10 years accompanied by a decrease in roster numbers but an increase in scholarships for student athletes.
- CSU Long Beach us a non-named defendant. We can opt in or out of terms of settlement before the final terms are agreed upon on April 7th.
- Chris asked for clarification on the ramifications of opting out
- Opting out would mean that CSU Long Beach would remain with the old bylaws and cannot share revenue with student athletes. This would make it harder to recruit players in the future.
- Arline asked if this case has any conflict with NIL and Title IX.
- Certain things don't overlap with this number. There are some concerns over Title IX that would need to be worked out.
- Ticket revenue and attendance is going up. So far this year, we have made \$865k in ticket revenue, which is more than last year up to this point.
- A survey was conducted in January to capture voices of our student athletes to help better their experiences on campus.
- Main areas for improvement include increased food access and enhanced marketing to show student achievements. Main strengths include a home away from home environment and high academic support.
- Kim suggested forwarding student athlete social media information to alumni to help enhance marketing.
- We are working with Teamworks to help with communication and connection for these types of scenarios. We are also in the process of hiring a Community Events Director that will be able to help with this.
- Kim asked if the recent executive order pertaining to biological men in women's sports has affected any of our student athletes.
- No, we have not had issues with this order. We follow NCAA guidelines and recommendations on matters related to this.

c. Presentation by Gavyn Arroyo, Men's Water Polo Coach

- I would love this to be a forum. I highly encourage you all to ask questions while I am talking.
- It has been a magical couple of months. I went to Paris for Olympics as assistant coach to the Men's Water Polo team and now I am back and ready to start this season.
- We have been ranked #1 in the preseason rankings. We have many new young players with great talent. Our sport has one of the shortest seasons so it will go by very quickly.
- I have been around for so long that people I coached are now coaching against me. But this has worked to my advantage because I was able to get up to speed with rule changes in Paris that will be in affect this season.

- The Big West Player of Year is from our program, we lost no players to the transfer portal this year. This is great because 2 years ago we lost our best player to USC in the portal.
- I am super excited with where we are at right now. We recently beat Cal, which gives me some bragging rights as I am a Cal alum. we are being referred to as the Bear Slayers.
- I want to say that I am super happy that Bobby is the one leading us through these difficult times.
- We tried to fix the pool heater a couple years ago however the parts were not available at the time. We have a combined heating system with the main water heating system for the campus.
- President Conoley has signed off on 10M grant to reconstruct the pool.
- Arline asked when the project would be starting and when it would be completed.
- Groundbreaking is scheduled for May 12th and completion is expected to be done in mid-January of 2026.
- The 2028 summer Olympics are scheduled to be in Long Beach. We are unsure of the impact this will have on the program. Hopefully this helps with recruiting since it will put Long Beach on the map for prospective players across the world.
- My daughter will be freshman on women's team next year.

d. March Meeting Date

- The Athletics Department has a meeting on March 19th, during our originally scheduled meeting. We have two options. We can move our meeting to the Wednesday before or Wednesday after March 19th.
- Brenda suggested March 26th since we will have more time to prepare, and a compliance report will be available to discuss at that time.
- The next meeting will be on March 26th, 2025. This was approved at 3:58 PM.

V. Announcements

Attend the Men's Volleyball game this Friday vs Grand Canyon.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 26th, 2025.

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