

Committee on Athletics

2025-2026

Meeting #1

In person (CBA-204) and [on Zoom](#)

October 15, 2025, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Attendance: Kimberly Farrell, Samantha Valdez, Lilia Brack, Jordan Lemus, Alaina Martinez, Tava Tedesco, Hojin Moon, Khue Duong, Chris Karadjov, Stephen Glass, Sly Young, Milton Ordonez, Bobby Smitheran, Sandra Shirley, Micheal Ekema, Barbara Kinsgley-Wilson, Grace Reynolds-Fisher, Brenda Vogel, Damian Zavala, Brian Coriaty, Don Haviland, Alison Ede and Kendall Fearn (Guest)

- I. Calling the meeting to order
- II. Agenda Approved
- III. Approval of minutes from April 16, 2025 (Pending)
- IV. Agenda
 - a. Chair's report – Chris Karadjov—none
 - b. Introductions of new members
 - c. Elections – Chair: Chris Karadjov
Vice Chair: Alaina Martinez
Secretary: Khue Duong
 - d. Report from Bobby Smitheran, Executive Director of Athletics

Fall Sports update:

Women's Volleyball, Women's Soccer, Men's Water Polo, Cross Country Programs, and Men's & Women's Golf are competing.

Basketball Programs are preparing for the upcoming season.

The swimming pool is under construction and on schedule for reopening in January 2026.

Men's Volleyball 2025 NCAA National Championship Recognition:

- Long Beach State night at Angels Stadium was on 9/25 and the team was recognized prior to the game
- 10/21 recognition by Long Beach City Council
- Working on a celebration with our state representatives at half time of a men's basketball game in December

Accelerating Academic Success Program Grant:

- Second year in a row we've been awarded the NCAA Accelerating Academic Success Grant which provides \$120,000 worth of enhancements that directly supports academic and well-being support for our student athletes.

- Last year, we utilized the funds to improve our academic center facility and resources, as well as our *Be A Champion Life Skills* program

- This year, the grant will be used to enhance our fueling station infrastructure, nutrition education and resources, laptops for our laptop loan program, and further improvements to our *Be A champion* program

Semi-Pro Baseball @ Blair Field:

- Lots of talk in the media about minor league baseball coming to Blair Field

- We're having active conversations with leadership of the Long Beach Baseball Club to bring professional baseball to Blair Field as early as this coming May

- Provide an opportunity for partnership that would result in much needed facility enhancements to Blair Field and other community benefits

House vs. NCAA Settlement Impacts:

- Continue to be felt as we've ushered in a new era of college athletics with the ability to revenue share with student-athletes, increased scholarship opportunities (to the tune of an additional \$7M we could potentially do by NCAA regulations), and reduced roster numbers

- To be clear, we do not have revenue to share as we need to continue to invest in scholarship opportunities for those programs that are underfunded.

- The CSU Chancellors Office has provided guidance on revenue sharing with student-athletes and we now have that in terms of a player agreement that outlines the students' responsibilities and terms for which the agreement could be terminated (misconduct, academically ineligible, violates NCAA rules)

- We've established recruitment and retention funds for all 19 sports to provide equity in terms of giving our head coaches the opportunity to fundraise, should they need donor support to retain or recruit elite talent

- This is what we are calling our Anchor Fund and it is intended to replace payments from what was previously known as NIL Collectives.

- Realities of men's basketball these days is to field a competitive roster: you must create NIL/revenue sharing opportunities to attract top level talent.

- We received a tremendous amount of support from URD and Financial Services and other campus partners this past summer to help us meet this moment so thank you Milton for assistance.
- We've lost top level talent in a number of our lower resources Olympic sport programs to NIL/revenue sharing opportunities, so this is a real thing for us.
- We're continuing to invest in revenue generating activities and you will see some enhancements to the Walter Pyramid this coming basketball season to drive ticket sales, fan engagement, and hopefully build our portfolio of donors.

Score Act & Safe Act:

- There continues to be significant interest at the federal level into the current status of college athletics subsequent to the House Settlement passing
- BWC has joined a coalition of 10 conferences representing 110 D1 schools outside of P4 to ensure our views and interests are considered as Congress debates college sports legislation
- Two different pieces of federal legislation we are tracking on and is aimed at standardizing and regulating college sports
- The SCORE Act is in the House and the SAFE Act is in the Senate for discussion
- They represent two distinct approaches to creating a national framework for NIL, revenue sharing, and student-athlete protections
- Neither bill is expected to pass in its current form, but a negotiated compromise may shape the future of intercollegiate athletics
- What we need in the Big West Conference is a compromise bill that
 - o Maintains revenue predictability
 - o Enshrines broad-based sport support
 - o Avoids unfunded compliance mandates

Conference realignment:

Moving on, UCSD, UC Davis and Hawaii will leave the Big West Conference. Utah Valley, Sacramento State and Cal Baptist join the Big West Conference in 2026.

Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony:

- We recently announced the selection of 6 individuals and 1 national championship team for induction into the Long Beach State Athletics HOF

- Ceremony will take place January 21st at the Long Beach Airport Marriott

e. Report from Softball Head Coach Kendall Fearn:

With Kim Sowder's retirement and after a national search, Kendall Fearn is the new Softball Head Coach.

f. Report by Faculty Athletics Representative and COA Vice Chair Brenda Vogel:

Professor Brenda Vogel will be ending her responsibilities as the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) this AY. A search for a new COA begins soon.

V. Adjournment

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