

Committee on Athletics

2025-2026

Meeting #3

In person (College of Business Dean's Conference Room – CBA204) and [on Zoom](#)

February 18, 2026, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Attendance: Arline Walter, Lilia Brack, Tava Tedesco, Khue Duong, Chris Karadjov, Stephen Glass, Kimberly Farrell, Grace Reynolds-Fisher, Sly Young, Milton Ordonez, Bobby Smitheran, Sandra Shirley, Barbara Kingsley-Wilson, Brenda Vogel, Damian Zavala, Don Haviland, Vy Hoang, Michael Ekema, Brian Coriaty, and Samara Doudar
Guests: Ulices Piña, Gary Metzker, and Rob Murray

- I. Calling the meeting to order
 - II. Agenda approved
 - III. Minutes from November 17, 2025 approved
 - IV. New business
- a. Chair's report – Chris Karadjov
If you'd like to attend athletics events as COA members, you can send emails to Jeff Scott.

With the FAR search conclusion, Dr. Ulices Piña was elected as the FAR Representative. He is undergoing the onboarding process with Dr. Brenda Vogel.

- b. Report from Bobby Smitheran, Executive Director of Athletics

NCAA allows patches of corporate sponsorships, up to two sponsored patches on the jersey.

Academics: 235 students with the achievement of an academic all-star 3.0 GPA or higher
Fall Semester: 3.31 term average GPA
Many student athletes were on Dean's List and President's List

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies

Ken Lindgren Aquatic Center Improvements / Renovation: new pool equipment, deck, restrooms, classroom, entry ways, lane lines, poles, etc.

We appreciate LBCC sharing their pool facilities during the renovation.

Bohl Diamond at Blair Field: The Bohl Annex Pitching Lab was unveiled, made possible through the generosity and giving of Marilyn Bohl.

Retirement celebration:

Alan Knipe, Men's Volleyball Head Coach.

Kim Sowder, Softball Head Coach, celebration on March 21st during the Hawaii game.

Big West Conference hosting

Women's Water Polo

Men and Women's Track and Field

Softball: Kendall Fearn era started

Men's Volleyball: 9-1 Record, play UCLA again this Friday, 2/20

Baseball: youth movement with very talented freshmen.

Golf: both men & women's team had good performances at recent tournaments.

Women's Water Polo: picked to finish 2nd on the Big West

Women's Beach Volleyball season is about to start

Women's Tennis: this year consists of a group of talented sophomores

Track & Field: in the midst of indoor season then shift to the outdoor season

MBB and WBB have six remaining games, still having a chance to participate in the Big West Tournament.

Pyramid status—we are waiting on the second study / assessment to understand opportunities/cost

c. Report from Men's Golf Coach Rob Murray

Coach Rob Murray is three times Big West Coach of the Year. The team includes a group of veterans and returners.

Big West Tournament happens in early May. There are six sites of regional NCAA Tournament, then San Diego for the National Championship

d. Gary Metzker (Journalism and Public Relations) on Sports Journalism Class

The only Sports Journalism Class, first established in 2012. At that time, the program was the only one in the CSU, but now other CSUs have picked up the pace. There have been discussions about offering an undergraduate degree in sports journalism.

Training and opportunities on all platforms: social media, marketing, 22 West Media, public relations and traditional print journalism. The class includes a good mix of students. This semester, more women than men. Including discussion of sports marketing

Thanks to Roger Kirk, Associate Athletics Director, Communications and Broadcast, students can go to athletic events and write reports. Students, with one hour deadline, have to turn in a two, three-hundred-word report about the event. Students also work with Librarian Tracy Gilmore to learn how to look up reports and articles.

Professional sportscasters come to share perspectives and work experiences. This includes sportscasters covering Lakers play-by-play games, Denver Broncos, ESPN, Fox Sports, etc.

V. Announcements

Next meeting will be either in the Pyramid or the Bickerstaff Center.

VI. Adjournment

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