Chair Koopmann called the meeting to order at 12:10.

I.) CHAIR REMARKS

Chair Koopmann noted that he is still waiting for the AAAC Committee to approach him with student and athletes to make a case for priority registration.

In the interest of time, January’s minutes will be reviewed at March’s meeting.

II.) VPSA REMARKS

VP Harper thanked all student panelists for coming. The committee greatly appreciates students, and especially students who make a unique contribution to the campus community. This student panel has been complied to help to make known what female student-athlete’s special needs are.

The committee introduced themselves to the guests.

III.) SHARI ACHO PRESENTATION

Shari introduced the student guests to the committee.
Lindsay —Soccer, graduate student in SPH, built orphanage in Tanzania
Ashley—Swimming, senior English major
Laquisha—Basketball, undecided
Teleicia—Track, on academic scholarship

Shari gave the committee a few statistics of the women’s sports programs:
12 Women’s Varsity Sports
331 Woman athletes
107 on of those on full athletic scholarship
187 have a 3.0 or higher

Teleicia spoke about being on full academic scholarship and needing a 3.5 GPA. He often has 3 hour practices plus 12 hrs/week working, making it difficult to schedule classes.

Lindsey added that it is extremely difficult to schedules classes when you’re switching coaches and don’t know your practice schedules.

Having only one facility makes scheduling even more difficult. The Athletic Department has tried to address this by flipping the practice schedules each semester.

In terms of determining how many hours a week a student-athlete actually trains, the NCAA has specific forms students must complete to confirm that they’ve only been practicing 20 hours a week, but that does not apply to independent training and conditioning.

Laquisha is taking 14 credits, Telicia is taking 18 credits with an academic scholarship, Ashley is taking 13 credits.

- How many people are forced to take classes over the Spring/Summer and what affect does that have on them?
  - It often happens, and it also makes it difficult to get a summer internship preparing you for the professional world.

These students want to be a part of a team and be present at practices and training, and present at the University, contributing to winning athletic programs.

Laquisha noted that most women know coming in how difficult it will be.

- How have your experiences been with professors at the University?
  - One professor didn’t allow Lindsey to take Friday quizzes when she couldn’t make Friday lectures
  - English 274, one professor accused her of plagiarism and tried to fail her, she had to defend her grades
  - Shari added that it’s difficult to address these problems with faculty, because you can’t tell them how to grade. And with class attendance policies, athletes have a letter from the Provost but faculty are not required to honor that request. Often, problems are addressed as “student” and not “athlete” issues, because the faculty prefers it be dealt with in that way.

Chair Koopmann noted that the University is failing to support the students representing it, and that issues of academic freedom have infringed on the rights of the students.

- Are there unique issues you face being women athletes as opposed to male athletes?
Telicia: There is not much attention paid to track, and it doesn’t get the same attention and media coverage.

Laquisha: Women’s basketball is doing extremely well this season, but does not bring a lot of attention. It’s extremely frustrating to see the support the men’s basketball team receives, and see so much less support for the women’s team.

Chair Koopmann mentioned that he has heard in the past that strength and conditioning systems seemed more geared towards men and football. Is this still a problem?

- It really depends on the coach’s opinion. And many sports have “sports-specific” conditioning instead of the traditional system.
- Laquisha: women’s basketball team does the same conditioning that men’s football team does.

What is the housing situation for student-athletes?
- All freshman live on campus, and some teams require players to live in the dorms a second year. It’s fairly easy to keep athletes in South Quad.

The priority registration issue has really become a serious problem. Considering the small size of the student-athlete population, it’s problematic that there hasn’t been something done to address the issue yet.

The committee thanked the students for coming in and for doing such a remarkable job representing the University. The student panelists left at 1:02

IV.) DSA PRESENTATION

Melinda gave the committee an update of the following things happening in the DSA:

- Doing continual study to understand our students and faculty
- Collecting CIRP survey data
- Using the company StudentVoice to get snapshots of the student body. The company returns the data cleaned and sorted, with common analysis available, and backup systems available
- The fact that we know so much about our students makes us very popular with people doing research
- 7.5% of incoming students have participated in a protest before college, compared with the over 70% of graduating seniors, who responded to surveys on the issue of commencement.
- There is also a Senior Survey being given which provides longitudinal data on students, targeting 4th and 5th year undergraduates, offering a Nintendo Wii as an incentive.
- Recent research and literature has become more sophisticated in what questions to ask students, and how to learn more about them
The DSA recently put out a survey on the spring commencement.
- 4,000 responded; of those, 3,500 are undergraduates.
- All response data can be sorted by school and college

The DSA is also doing more to understand the lives of students through research:
- Looking more at information on student’s personal reflections
- Research on online communities, such as Facebook
- Many students come to Michigan looking for diversity and diverse experiences
- Growing numbers of students are planning on further study

There has been a lot of support from SRAC in developing this kind of student research. There are finally enough results to have some longitudinal data, and link that data student-to-student, which is very groundbreaking.

V.) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The next meeting will include a presentation from the LBGT office and a student panel, and after that will be a presentation on the accreditation effort.

S. Himbeault-Taylor mentioned that there is typically a follow-up study facilitated by academic departments, the information from which could be presented to the committee in the next year.

RH offered to send out to the committee a one-page document detailing the results of that survey. The results are fairly consistent: about 1/3 attend graduate school, over 90% of students seeking employment find it, and a great number of those responding feel those jobs have career potential. Almost every unit has data on student feedback and satisfaction.

There was a suggestion to make a survey specific to graduating seniors which assesses their take on the offerings of the University; perhaps something like the personalized exit interview given to student-athletes to get feedback on their experiences.

The meeting was convened at 1:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen Manwell
SACUA Student Support