

Minutes of the Faculty Athletics Committee Meeting November 12, 2007

The Faculty Athletics Committee of Arkansas Tech University met at noon on Monday, November 12, 2007, in the football conference room. Those attending were chairman Tom DeBlack, Daniel Bullock, Emily Bell, Robin Lasey, Steve Mullins (Athletics Director and Head Football Coach), Kristy Bayer (Senior Women's Administrator and Head Volleyball Coach), Ben Greenberg (Sports Information Director). Athletics Director Mullins and SWA Bayer reported on the sports seasons recently completed (football, volleyball, and cross country). The Cross Country team finished sixth in the conference and seventh in the region. The volleyball team advanced to the conference tournament, placed three players on the all-conference team, and had a player named outstanding freshmen of the year. The football team ended with a record of 5-5 with season-ending losses to Southern Arkansas and Harding. SWA Bayer reported that the Breast Cancer Awareness volleyball match against Henderson State raised \$3,000. The match also drew the largest crowd of the season (500+).

The men's and women's basketball seasons are getting under way with conference play to begin in January. The golf team has been forced to increase the strength of its schedule in order to facilitate better regional rankings. This will involve two trips to Florida for matches.

Mr. Mullins gave an update on the new facilities. Plans are underway for improvements to the visitors' stands at the football stadium, including the addition of a press box suitable for television cameras. Future plans call for the building of a berm around the perimeter of the football complex. SID Greenberg reported on the redesign of football programs, upgrades on the athletics website, internet broadcast of football and basketball games, and live updates of volleyball matches.

In other business, Mr. Mullins reported that Ouachita and Valdosta would go off the football schedule next season. The University of Arkansas, Monticello and West Alabama will be back on the schedule. The second week of the conference season will be an open date. The new stadium will be formally dedicated next season. Mr. Mullins also announced that new compliance coordinator Joey Hall has announced that she is resigning to accept a position at Oklahoma State.

Committee member Shelia Jackson raised the issue of absenteeism by football players on travel days for away games. Some teachers have complained that student/athletes are leaving long before the scheduled departure time in order to practice. Mr. Mullins responded that the team has the option of practicing at home and leaving later or leaving earlier and practicing at the game site. He prefers to conduct the practice at home. At any rate, the amount of class time missed would be the same. He also noted that athletes who have exams are excused from the practice, and pointed out that football athletes miss no more than three to four days of class time a year. Committee member Daniel Bullock noted that members of the university choir miss more of his classes due to school-related activities than do football players.

The next meeting will be early in the spring semester. Dr. Brown will need to appoint a new member to the committee from the Student Government Association, as one of the two members has left school.

Submitted by Tom DeBlack
Acting Recording Secretary