

2023-2024 AY Athletic Council Report to the Faculty Senate

The Athletic Council met three times (in person or via Zoom): on October 31, 2023, February 1, and April 4, 2024. Each meeting had a similar pattern where Marvin Lewis, Assistant Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, provided an overview and update on the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (ICA) related to personnel updates, academic and athletic achievements, and projects ICA is working on. The Faculty Athletics Representative, Dr. Dominique Banville, then provided an update on activities/work performed in her role. Deputy AD, Compliance, and NCAA Governance Malcolm Grace would provide information on specific legislation or compliance/institutional requirements as needed. When Student-athletes could join us, they would share activities related to SAAC.

Some of the notable elements shared this past academic year by the ICA staff are:

- In his first meeting with the Council, Marvin shared six priorities for ICA: Organization Health, Fundraising Strategies, Staffing and Infrastructure Assessment, Visual Identity refresh, Strategic Playbook, and what he called “Time and Score,” which is an expression one of his former coaches used to indicate that as a player, he always needed to be aware of the time and the score to make the appropriate decision based on these two factors
- The locker rooms in the field house were (finally) renovated
- In the Fall, SAs overall earned a 3.34 cumulative GPA, and over half the SAs obtained a GPA of 3.5 or higher
- A new Women’s Soccer Coach was hired (Aaron Brunner)
- A Director of Development (Katie Pate) was hired to help raise the amount of money ICA is expected to contribute towards the 1-Billion-dollar campaign
- Marvin presented the plan to improve the Academic Resource Center, which resides in a module near the PV lot. A \$30 million facility, for which ICA will need to raise \$15 M, will be built adjacent to the current basketball practice facility in the RAC. The facility will include two full basketball courts, locker rooms, Men’s and Women’s basketball team offices, and the Academic Resource Center. The anticipated opening is in the Fall of 2026
- ICA has partnered with Collegiate Sports Associates to assist in developing a strategic plan. Data was gathered via a survey of stakeholders, and over 800 responses were received. A steering committee has been formed, and meetings have been initiated with different groups
- A few initiatives related to increasing faculty and staff engagement are being finalized in collaboration with the FAR for next year: (1) the guest coaching program for M&W basketball, M&W Volleyball, M&W Soccer, Lacrosse, and Soccer, (2) College/Department night at the MBB game and (3) Faculty involvement in the recruitment of potential SAs
- Key legislative issues were discussed such as the transfer portal and the related rules, Name, Image and Likeness (NIL), federal and state lawsuits and their potential impact on NCAA rules and regulations

Some of the notable elements shared this past academic year by FAR Banville are:

- Administered End-of-Season survey to SAs as they finished their season and produced team reports for AD Lewis so the information could be used promptly
- Participated in numerous A-10 FARs Conference Calls
- Continued her involvement in the NCAA Division I “Transfer Waivers Committee” and, in that role, participated in conference calls as needed

- Continued her participation in the A-10 Compliance Committee and attended monthly Zoom calls alongside the compliance representative of each institution within the A-10
- Attended the FARA Conference/A10 FAR Meetings in Indianapolis in November
- Helped with the certification of all the freshman wrestlers at the end of the Fall term to allow them to compete unaffiliated over the winter break
- Examined the change of grades submitted for SAs
- Attended multiple practice sessions (e.g., M and W basketball and volleyball)
- Traveled with Men's Basketball (Davidson), Women's Basketball (UMass), Women's Soccer (Lasalle), Men's Volleyball (New Jersey), and will travel with Baseball to VA Tech on April 22-23
- Attended team meetings related to the Academic Progress Rate (APR)
- Selected, with the help of Nena Rogers and Marvin Lewis, the George Mason nomination for the A-10 Post-Graduate Scholarship
- Coming ahead is the administration of the Student-Athlete End-of-season survey for Spring sports and the submission of the A-10 Commissioner's honor roll to the conference office.

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Dominique Banville, Faculty Athletics Representative, on April 15, 2024

Appendix A
Responses to Questions from Faculty Senate

1. During the past calendar year has the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President (or their respective offices) announced initiatives or goals or acted upon issues that fall under the charge of your Committee? If so, was your Committee consulted by the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President in a timely manner before the announcement or action? If not, do you believe your Committee should have been consulted? Would it have been helpful to have had the input of your Committee from the outset?

Answer: No initiatives or goals or acted-upon issues fell under the charge of our committee.

2. Did your Committee seek information or input from the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President or members of their staff? If so, did they respond adequately and in a timely manner?

Answer: We did not need specific input from these offices this year.

3. Please suggest how you believe the President, Provost, Senior Vice President and/or their staff might more effectively interact with your Committee in the future, if necessary.

Answer: Janette Muir attended the meetings, so the interactions were appropriate, and I don't see how they could have been more effective.

4. Please relate any additional information you may have regarding interactions between your Committee and the President, Provost, Senior Vice President, or their staff.

Answer: We have representatives from different offices on campus, and I believe we have the appropriate mix of people on the committee.