

2024-2025 AY Athletic Council Report to the Faculty Senate

The Athletic Council met three times (in person or via Zoom): on October 31, 2024, February 6, and April 3, 2025. 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 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 the Fall of 25, the overall GPA was 3.32, 78 Provost Scholars (those with a 3.75 GPA or better for three consecutive semesters), and 49% were on the Dean's List. An impressive 137 student-athletes earned all As for the Fall semester, and 10 teams (42%) had a GPA of 3.40 or above.
- Attendance at soccer games grew by 25%, and a wrestling match was hosted at the Johnson Center for the first time.
- A number of competitive achievements was experienced by teams and individuals within teams such as: Men's Soccer: A10 Regular Season Championship; Women's Track: A10 Indoor Track Championship; Men's basketball: A10 Regular Season Championship; Women's basketball: A10 Conference Tournament Championship and NCAA Appearance; Wrestling: 3 athletes at the NCAA Championships; Baseball: 23-run historic inning vs. Holy Cross
- A new apparel partnership with Adidas/Game One will be in place starting July 1, 2025
- A record attendance of 3,550+ was reached at a WBB game thanks to a partnership with Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services
- A new strategic plan was shared, including the mission, vision, core values, and priorities for the upcoming years;
- Groundbreaking for the new Basketball and Academic Performance Center is scheduled for this summer. This 30,000 square foot facility will support basketball operations and academic support for all Student-athletes.
- Additional staff will be hired to better support ICA (COO, Director of player management/NIL, Associate AD – Student Athlete development)
- A faculty appreciation day was organized at the women's lacrosse game. SAs on the team invited their favorite faculty members, and Nena and Dominique welcomed them in the Team room one hour before the game. They received a hand-written card from their SA and a few gifts. Dominique explained her role, and Nena shared the academic support provided to SAs. This experience was very positive, and plans are already in the making to replicate this event in the Fall with Soccer
- A comprehensive explanation of the athletic landscape was provided during the February meeting (please see the report submitted to the Senate for more details)
- 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 the student-athlete representative(s) are:

- One of the goals for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) is to create more opportunities for SAs to connect. Throughout the year, they have shared activities they have organized or co-sponsored such as mental health awareness event, study break event, “Formal” event, “National Student-Athlete Day” event, and “Green and Gold Celebration”.

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
- Attended the FARA Conference/A10 FAR Meetings in Dallas in November
- 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 (Duke), Women’s Basketball (St-Joseph), Men’s Soccer (Lasalle), and will travel with Baseball to UVA on May 13
- Attended team meetings related to the Academic Progress Rate (APR)
- Nominated two student-athletes for NCAA Post-graduate scholarships
- 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 10, 2025

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.