

20255-2026 AY Athletic Council Report to the Faculty Senate

The Athletic Council met three times (in person and/or via Zoom): on October 30, 2025, February 5, and April 16, 2026. Each meeting followed a similar pattern, with members of the Inter-Collegiate Athletics (ICA) Department providing information on Student-Athletes' (SAs) academic and athletic performance, legislation and compliance issues, SAs-led initiatives and activities, and ICA-led projects. The chair of the Council, the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), Dr. Dominique Banville, then provided an update on activities/work performed in her role.

One major topic covered this year related to the bylaws. The committee's bylaws had not been reviewed since 2015. With the input from committee members, the updated bylaws were unanimously approved. The main modifications are related to the focus of the sub-committees, which needed to be updated to reflect the new reality of collegiate athletics. There will be two sub-committees focused on *Faculty/Staff engagement* and *Student-Athletes' Holistic Development*. Additionally, it was agreed that starting on AY 26-27, the Council will meet four times a year (early and late Fall, and early and late Spring) for 75 minutes. The Sub-committees will meet outside these meetings and report on their discussions at the late-semester meeting.

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

- A thorough review of the medical model used was conducted by a team that included both internal and external partners.
- Introduction of the “Patriot Pathway”, a model designed to support the holistic development of our SAs. The model includes five categories: civic and community engagement, career readiness, leadership development, holistic wellness, and personal development.
- Some of the statistics from the Fall 2025: 3.40 Overall GPA – highest in department history, 74 Provost scholars, and 225 SAs on the dean’s list.
- APR was met with a score of 990 (“passing” score is 985).
- Numerous legal issues involving the NCAA and former SAs were discussed, and new legislation related to basketball (Tournament performance units and transfer portal window), Wrestling (transfer portal window), and track and field (transfer portal window) was passed at the NCAA convention in January.
- Sport wagering remains illegal at all levels.
- Commercial logos will be allowed on uniforms, apparel, and equipment.
- A White House executive order was issued recently. This order addresses eligibility, transfers, Pay-for-Play, revenue sharing, and NIL rules. Violations could result in the loss of certain federal funding.

- The eligibility rule remains at four years of eligibility in 5 years.
- The Board of Visitors has approved a long-term capital plan for the baseball field, the High-Performance Training Center, and the field house, all of which are in dire need of renovations/updates.

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 the Athletic Director Lewis and Senior Administrator Rogers.
- Chaired the A-10 FARs Conference Call Meetings.
- 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.
- Traveled with Women's Soccer (Loyola Baltimore), Women's Volleyball (VCU), Men's Basketball (Fordham), Women's Basketball (St. Joseph's), Softball (Villanova), and will travel with Baseball to UVA.
- Selected, with the help of Nena Rogers and Marvin Lewis, the George Mason nomination for the A-10 Post-Graduate Scholarship.
- Will submit the A-10 Commissioner's Honor Roll to the conference office.

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Dominique Banville, Faculty Athletics Representative, on April 21, 2026

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, 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: Whitney Owen, Chief-of-Staff for the President, Janette Muir, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, and Pam Patterson, Associate President for University Life, attended some of the meetings, and interactions were appropriate and 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.