

## 2022-2023 AY Athletic Council Report to the Faculty Senate

The Athletic Council met three times in person: on October 25, 2022, January 31, and April 20, 2023. Each meeting has a similar pattern where Nena Rogers, Interim Director of Athletics provides 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 provides an update on activities/work performed in her role. Then updates would be provided on specific legislation or compliance/institutional requirements as needed. For the last two meetings, we also asked the student-athletes present to provide an update on SAAC activities. I take this opportunity to publicly recognize the work that Interim AD Nena Rogers accomplished this year in her role. Her positive leadership helped transform the department into a more cohesive and driven unit.

Some of the notable elements share this past academic year by Interim AD Rogers and ICA staff are:

- Mason Athletics is proud to have 51 Provost Scholars (GPA of 3.75 or higher)
- Mason undergraduate student-athletes finished the Fall semester with an overall GPA average of 3.24, exceeding the general Mason undergraduate population (3.07).
- Four teams had a team GPA of 3.5 or higher in the Fall.
- The long-awaited renovations of the Field house locker room are underway.
- Tony Skinn was named head coach of the men's basketball team
- The contract of Vanessa Blair-Lewis, head coach of the women's basketball team, was extended through the 27-28 season after another very successful season.
- Mason hosted the MAC Wrestling Championship in early March with Peter Pappas winning his weight category and Nathan Higley making it to his final. Both went on to compete in the NCAA championship. Higley was voted MAC Wrestling Freshman of the Year.
- Milan Pierre-Jerome (women's soccer) represented Mason and the A10 at the NCAA Leadership Forum.
- Four student-athletes (Malik Henry – Men's Basketball, Sonia Smith – Women's Basketball; Jester Hutchison – Women's Soccer; and Shawn Nonaka – Wrestling) and two ICA Staff members (Cheryl Hunte – Academic Services and Mark LaFrance – Marketing/Communication) attended the NCAA Inclusion Conference.
- Mason will host the NCAA Men's Volleyball Championship in early May.
- The RAC will be renovated to accommodate two practice courts and relocate the academic support center and the coaching staff offices.
- Marvin Lewis was hired as the next Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics. He will start on July 1.

Some of the notable elements shared by the Student-athletes are:

- Advocated for better funding for Mason by sending letters to their representative
- Identified specific games in different sports for cancer awareness
- Organized activities to support "Morgan's Message" (mental health), and National Girl and Women in Sports Day.
- Held special events to celebrate National Student-Athlete Day
- Will conduct a food drive at the upcoming Gold and Green Celebration to support the Patriot Pantry

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

- Participated in numerous A-10 FARs Conference Calls
- Was appointed to the NCAA Division I “2-4 Transfer Waivers Committee” and in that role, participated in weekly conference calls in the first part of the semester and then as needed
- Was appointed to the A-10 Compliance Committee and participated in monthly conference calls alongside the compliance representative of each institution within the A-10
- She 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, monthly, the change of grades submitted for SAs
- Attended multiple practice sessions (e.g. men’s and women’s basketball and volleyball)
- Traveled with Men’s Basketball (Rhode Island), Women’s Basketball (Chicago); Women’s Lacrosse (Richmond) and will travel with Baseball to Annapolis in a couple of weeks
- Chaired a committee to establish a process and provide education to coaching staff related to the Academic Progress Rate (APR).
- Gathered nomination for the A10 Post-Graduate Scholarship and selected, with the input of Nena, Malcolm Grace, and Cheryl Hunte, Stephanie Der (Women’s Volleyball) for the award
- Coming ahead is the administration of the Student-Athlete End-of-year survey, individual meetings with exiting SAs, 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 13, 2022