



**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ATHLETICS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 1, 2016**

1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

The Florida International University Board of Trustees' Athletics Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Jorge L. Arrizurieta at 10:53 a.m. on Thursday, September 1, 2016 at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms.

The following attendance was recorded:

Present

Jorge L. Arrizurieta, *Chair*
Justo L. Pozo, *Vice Chair*
Leonard Boord
Alian Collazo
Kathleen L. Wilson

Trustees Cesar L. Alvarez and Marc D. Sarnoff, and University President Mark B. Rosenberg were also in attendance.

Committee Chair Arrizurieta welcomed all Trustees, faculty, staff and students to the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

Committee Chair Arrizurieta asked that the Committee approve the Minutes of the meeting held on March 11, 2016. A motion was made and passed to approve the Minutes of the Athletics Committee Meeting held on Friday, March 11, 2016.

3. Discussion / Information Items

3.1 Athletics Update

Executive Director of Sports and Entertainment Pete Garcia presented the Athletics update, noting that Panthers Football will open the new season at home later in the day. He stated that this was the best academic year on record for FIU student-athletes. Mr. Garcia stated that FIU was the Conference USA member school with the most representatives in the Olympics, adding that a total of six either current or former FIU athletes competed.

Mr. Garcia introduced the newly-hired head coach of FIU Baseball, Mervyl Melendez, noting that Coach Melendez is a top ranked recruiter and has an accomplished career where at the age of 42 he became the third youngest head coach in Division I baseball history to reach 500 career wins. Coach Melendez discussed his vision and goals for the program, noting that he looked forward to beginning the season and propelling FIU baseball forward.

Mr. Garcia introduced FIU Baseball outfielder and third baseman Nick Day, noting that in July, Nick acted selflessly in responding to aid a person severely injured in a car accident. Nick relayed his experience and provided an account of his involvement in administering life-saving emergency response.

3.2 Facilities Report

Mr. Garcia noted that the University entered into an agreement with Miami FC last year, adding that FIU is one of a small number of higher education institutions in the country that rent out facilities. He indicated that net revenue derived from Football Stadium and FIU Arena rental totaled \$545,595. He stated that suites in the Football stadium are used for classrooms during the spring and fall semesters. Mr. Garcia also mentioned that the University hosted a practice for the Miami Dolphins, further noting that the event was sold out.

3.3 Eastern Airlines

Mr. Garcia reported that after a competitive solicitation, the University partnered with Eastern Airlines making the Miami-based company the official airline for the FIU Football team. He added that the partnership will result in additional revenue to the Division of Athletics over the next three years. Mr. Garcia introduced Mr. Edward J. Wegel, President and CEO of Eastern Airlines group. Mr. Wegel discussed Eastern Airlines' history, current partnerships, and goals on expanding internship opportunities for FIU students. He added that approximately 25% of Eastern Airlines employees have either enrolled in courses at FIU or are alumni.

3.4 Van Wagner Sports and Entertainment Update

Deputy Athletic Director Robert Staub provided a brief update on the progress of the seven-year partnership between Van Wagner Sports and Entertainment and FIU Athletics. He introduced Van Wagner's Senior Vice President for Collegiate Services Mark Donley. Mr. Donley stated that FIU is the first school Van Wagner partnered with and reported that they will later announce their tenth collegiate partnership. He discussed the expanding video production capabilities and other value-added resources that the partnership provides to FIU Athletics. He also reported that the first four years of the agreement represent a \$550,000 cash guarantee to FIU.

Trustee Leonard Boord made several inquiries regarding the financial benefits to the University in terms of the value added enhancements and also requested Van Wagner's cash flow position as it relates to the partnership with FIU. Mr. Donley responded by noting that, since the partnership's inception, negative cash flow has been experienced.

Trustee Boord requested quarterly updates on the Van Wagner Sports and Entertainment partnership, noting that the reports should be received at regular intervals, not limited to meetings of the Committee.

3.5 Academic Report

Vice President for Academic Affairs Elizabeth M. Bejar provided an update on the Student Athlete Academic Center (SAAC), noting that the focus of the SAAC is to provide academic support services for student-athletes and is devoted to facilitating student athlete success beyond the field. She noted that the coordination of the day-to-day leadership of the SAAC is under the direction of Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Education Wesley D. Maas.

AVP Maas mentioned that the program focuses on recruitment, retention, and the eventual graduation of student-athletes. He stated that the program incorporates weekly academic meetings in which tracking mechanisms help ensure that FIU student-athletes are accountable for their academic success and are partners in the process. AVP Maas added that academic reports are prepared for each student-athlete in order to track progress towards academic requirements. He stated that a key component to the SAAC program is open lines of communication among staff, student-athletes, and coaches to ensure that FIU's student-athletes are succeeding academically.

3.6 APR Report

Consultant Mr. John B. Shukie provided an update on the Academic Progress Rate (APR) report, which he noted measures eligibility and retention for all Division I teams and Division I institutions. He added that the 2015-2016 APR data will be available in approximately six weeks. He reported that in the latest rankings FIU's football team achieved its best APR score in the last four years. Mr. Shukie mentioned that FIU's Baseball team may have earned a perfect APR score and added that FIU Men's basketball experienced their top APR scores in 2014 and 2015. In addition, Mr. Shukie reported that the NCAA national office has expressed an interest in a feature story that narrates the success of the FIU Men's Basketball program.

Trustee Kathleen L. Wilson made reference to Trustee Natasha Lowell's inquiry at the last Athletics Committee meeting where she requested information as to how FIU Athletics teams compared to other universities in Conference USA (C-USA) and peers in the State University System in addition to the projected goal of the overall student athlete GPA. Mr. Garcia noted that FIU is a member of C-USA and, therefore indicated that a sports record comparison was limited to only C-USA teams and was provided as part of the meeting's agenda materials in response to Trustee Lowell's request.

4. Reports

Committee Chair Arrizurieta requested that the Student Athlete Development and Athletics Compliance reports be accepted as written. There were no objections.

5. New Business

No new business was raised.

6. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

With no other business, Committee Chair Jorge L. Arrizurieta adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees' Athletics Committee on Thursday, September 1, 2016 at 12:16 p.m.

<i>Trustee Request</i>	<i>Follow-up</i>	<i>Completion Date</i>
<i>Trustee Board requested quarterly updates on the Van Wagner Sports and Entertainment partnership, noting that the reports should be received at regular intervals, not limited to meetings of the Committee.</i>	<i>Executive Director of Sports and Entertainment Pete Garcia</i>	<i>On-going</i>

K.S.
09.08.2016

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