



FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ATHLETICS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 18, 2019

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 Justo L. Pozo at 11:48 a.m. on Thursday, April 18, 2019 at the FIU, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms.

General Counsel Carlos B. Castillo conducted a roll call of the Athletics Committee members and verified a quorum. Present were Justo L. Pozo, *Chair*; Leonard Boord; Joerg Reinhold; Sabrina L. Rosell; and Rogelio Tovar.

Trustee Michael G. Joseph was excused.

Trustees Cesar L. Alvarez, Dean C. Colson, Gerald C. Grant, Jr., and Natasha Lowell and University President Mark B. Rosenberg were also in attendance.

Committee Chair Justo L. Pozo welcomed all Trustees, faculty, staff and students to the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

Committee Chair Pozo asked that the Committee approve the Minutes of the meeting held on September 5, 2018. A motion was made and passed to approve the Minutes of the Athletics Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, September 5, 2018.

3. Discussion/ Information Items

3.1 Athletics Update

Executive Director of Sports and Entertainment Pete Garcia introduced FIU Panthers Football Quarterback James Morgan, noting that Mr. Morgan is a senior pursuing a Master of Public Administration. Mr. Garcia indicated that Mr. Morgan won Conference USA (C-USA) Newcomer of the Year 2018, was named as a C-USA Spirit of Service Award recipient, and also broke FIU's single-season record for passing touchdowns, passing yards, passing efficiency, and most touchdowns scored. Mr. Morgan described the winning season that culminated in a Bowl game win and his positive experiences as a student athlete, which he attributed to a welcoming and encouraging environment.

Mr. Garcia introduced FIU Men's Basketball Coach Jeremy Ballard, explaining that under Coach Ballard's leadership, the program earned its first 20-win season since 1998, which culminated in the first postseason win in its history. Coach Ballard highlighted program goals and examples of student athlete success, namely that of Brian Beard, Jr., Elhadji Dieng, Michael Douglas, and Willy Nunez, Jr. Coach Ballard explained that the team completed the Fall 2018 semester with a 2.89 GPA and urged the University community to support FIU athletics.

Mr. Garcia commended FIU athletics coaching staff for the time dedicated to student-athlete success and to the University community. In response to requests from the Committee's last meeting, he provided an overview of athletic team performance in terms of C-USA rankings, championships, and national finishes. Mr. Garcia indicated that the swimming and diving team captured its fifth-straight conference title on March 2 and that Ms. Maha Gouda was the only freshman in her final at the NCAA Championships.

In response to an inquiry from Trustee Leonard Boord relating to the top three infrastructure needs, Mr. Garcia delineated the critical priorities in terms of teams without facilities on campus, namely swimming and diving and track. Mr. Garcia explained that fundraising for athletics is critical in order to secure the student-athlete resources. Trustee Roger Tovar indicated that in terms of swimming facilities needs on campus, discussions have been held and continue to move forward in order to identify available space and costs estimates. In terms of critical facilities priorities, Trustee Boord requested cost estimates.

In response to the inquiry from Committee Chair Pozo relating to static C-USA finishes over a three-year period for several teams, Mr. Garcia explained that the lack of facilities presents challenges in terms of recruiting.

3.2 Academic Update

Senior Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Elizabeth M. Bejar indicated that C-USA recently released the Commissioners Honor Roll where FIU totaled the highest number of student-athletes on the honor roll with 246 members and that in terms of the C-USA's Commissioner's Academic Medal, FIU took home the most academic medal winners with 76. She then delineated a breakdown of GPAs by sport and student-athlete GPAs. Sr. VP Bejar provided an overview that compared C-USA universities in terms of enrollment, rankings, and minority student total headcount.

3.3 Fundraising Update

Mr. Garcia presented a fundraising update, delineating gifts and commitments by fiscal year. He indicated that for the current fiscal year, \$1.2M has been raised towards the \$1.8M goal and described the \$3M fundraising goal for the next fiscal year.

3.4 Van Wagner Report

Van Wagner's Senior Vice President for Collegiate Services Mark Donley provided a brief update on the progress of the seven-year partnership between Van Wagner Sports and Entertainment and FIU Athletics. In terms of revenues, Mr. Donley indicated that gross cash sales will exceed \$1M, which reflects a 33% increase over the prior year. He then explained that prior to the start of partnership,

FIU netted an average of approximately \$220-230K in sponsorship revenue and that a minimum 150% increase has been and will continue to be guaranteed for the term of the agreement. He described challenges in terms of attrition of sponsorships.

In response to Trustee Tovar's inquiry relating to the downward trend of C-USA television revenues, Mr. Garcia explained that FIU and other C-USA institutions absorbed the losses.

Trustee Sabrina L. Rosell commended the work of Van Wagner in terms of their student interactions.

Mr. Garcia indicated that the University and the Athletics department is closely monitoring the national headlines relating to the recent college admissions scandal and any possible implications.

4. New Business

No new business was raised.

5. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

With no other business, Committee Chair Justo L. Pozo adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees' Athletics Committee on April 18, 2019 at 12:40 p.m.

Trustee Request

- 1. In terms of critical facility priorities, Trustee Board requested cost estimates.*