University Athletic Advisory Committee (UAAC)  
Annual Report 2007-2008

The University of South Carolina Athletic Advisory Committee (UAAC) met eight times during 2007-2008. As explained in the Faculty Manual description, the committee reviews and monitors admissions decisions and the academic performance of all student-athletes. It regularly receives appropriate and relevant information regarding the academic issues involving student-athletes including:

- graduation rates;
- admissions decisions for athletes receiving grants-in-aid, including reports of the Committee on Special Admissions;
- annual inter-collegiate athletic program schedules and major changes to them;
- the annual budget of the Athletics Department;
- NCAA certification reports, including Title IX reports;
- major requests for waivers of any institutional athletic policies;
- major changes in Athletics Department personnel;
- the needs, interests, and concerns of student athletes;
- all other issues regarding inter-collegiate activities as referred to it by University officials.

The committee advises, as appropriate, the Faculty Senate, the NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR), the President, the Director of Athletics, and the Board of Trustees on all matters under its consideration.

At the September meeting Val Sheala, Associate Athletic Director, presented the Freshman-Cohort graduation rates. Raymond Harrison presented an overview of the tutoring programs and the orientation program for new athletes. New members Bruce Meglino, Lynda Nilges and David Crockett joined the committee and Manton Matthews was elected as Chair for 2007-2008.

At the October meeting Scott Verzyl, Director of Admissions, presented an overview of the admissions process and a summary from Fall 2007: 15,000 applications, 3400 slots, 8900 acceptances, and 42% yield. The chair led a discussion of the existing Special Admissions process. Each year there are 100 special admits, 50 for athletes and 50 for non-athletes, to recruit students with special talents that do not meet standard admission requirements. A proposal for a new procedure was also discussed. Provost Becker, Bob Bestand Bill Bearden attended the Knight Commission Meeting on athletics http://www.knightcommision.org. Finally the impact and process involved with scheduling Thursday night games was discussed.

At the December meeting, Provost Becker presented the new special admission process. The aim of the changes was to make the process more transparent. If a nominee for special admission meets “three of five” criteria then they are admitted without consideration by the Special Admissions Committee. The five criteria are: high school GPA at least 2.9 in the top 50%, SAT(CR+M) at least 830, SAT (CR) at least 420, and SAT (Math) at least 420. Applicants that do not meet the “three of five” will be considered by the committee as a “contract admit.” They will be admitted only if there is
a reasonable chance of success. For a “contract admit” there is a specific academic performance contract which specifies required study halls and meetings with academic advisors and provide clear language on the expectations and ramifications of not meeting expectations. The NCAA’s Academic Performance Rate (APR) was also discussed.

At the January meeting Raymond Harrison presented his research on the impact of the new “Academic Retention Standards” proposed by the Committee on Scholastic Standards and Petitions. The committee discussed how to work to make the transition to new standards go smoothly. The committee discussed the attendance policy and the fact that it does not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. Raymond Harrison presented the GPA report of all teams from 1996 to fall 2007. Bill Bearden, the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR), presented the statistics on the performance of the special admissions for 2006 and 2007. Of 91 special admits, 9 left the university, 71 had GPAs \( \geq 2.00 \), leaving 11 with GPAs \(< 2.00\).

At the February meeting the committee discussed the attendance policies of the University and of the Athletic Department. The greatest difference is that the University policy does not distinguish between unexcused and excused absences. Jennifer Stiles, NCAA Compliance Officer, discussed procedures for ensuring compliance with NCAA regulations and for dealing with violations. The NCAA rules book is 453 pages long, http://grfx.cstv.com/photos/schools/stan/genrel/auto_pdf/2007-08_d1_manual.pdf. There were a few secondary violations that were discovered by the coaches and published on the website. Three or four years ago was the last time there was a primary violation. A primary violation is anything that gives a competitive advantage.

At the March meeting John Kasik, Director of Sports Medicine presented an overview of the drug monitoring procedures. The UAAC report from 2006-2007 was distributed to the committee. New members, Pamela Melton, School of Law Library, and Ray Torres, Department of Geological Sciences were elected to the committee for 2008-2009.

At the April meeting the committee offered congratulations to Whitney Simmons, student member of the committee, for receiving the SEC Scholarship and the President’s Award. The impact of an admission proposal from the College of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management and the Admissions Committee was discussed. Manton Matthews was re-elected chair for 2008-2009. Football ticket prices for faculty were discussed. Costs are going up. Plans at Clemson and other SEC schools were discussed. Availability of tickets for faculty, students and graduate students was also discussed.

At the June meeting Val Shealey presented the APR public report and a comparison with other SEC schools. Men’s Football with APR 921 and Men’s Basketball with APR 899 were the teams that did not score above the minimum 925. There were “improvement plans” that were submitted for each of these programs and they each received a “waiver” from the NCAA. It was noted that no women’s team at USC or in fact any other SEC school had an APR below the 925 cutoff. Bill Bearden reported from the Special Admission Committee that several contract admits were considered and approved while one was sent back. Manton Matthews and Jim Augustine represented USC at the
Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) Meeting May 30-June 1 in Athens, GA. The Coalition is an organization of 57 Faculty Senates from the 119 Division I institutions. The committee went into executive session to discuss the budget of the Athletic Department which was to be presented to the Board of Trustees on Wednesday June 18th. Jeff Tallant presented the budget and led the discussion.

- The Athletic Department is totally self-supporting and transfers $12M to the University General Fund.
- Total Revenue in Budget $60M: 34% Ticket admissions, 24% Gamecock Club, 18% SEC revenue.
- Revenue from Ticket sales is largely from football (87%), M basketball (8%), and baseball (4%).
- Total Expenditures $62M, 35% Salary and Benefits, 23% General and Administrative, 17% Grants-in-Aid, and 7% for Team Travel.
- Colonial Center Revenues $5.2M, Ticket revenue 39%, Advertising 21%, Suites 18%, Concessions 11%.
- Colonial Center Operations Expenditures Personnel 36%, Show/Event Expenditures 29%, Utilities 13%, General and Administrative 11%.
- Total Revenue $65.6M Total Expenditure $65.1M.

Submitted by Manton Matthews, Chair of UAAC

UAAC Members, 2007-2008

Elected
- Geoffrey Albert, Criminal Justice (2008)
- Gary Miller, Education (2008)
- James Augustine, Medicine (2009)
- Manton Matthews, Computer Science and Engineering (2009)
- Bruce Meglino, Business (2010)
- Lynda Nilges, Education (2010)

Appointed:
- Whitney Simmons, Student
- Disharick Howze, Student
- Jennifer Gay, Graduate Student
- Sam Foster, Board of Trustees
- Eric Hyman, Athletic Director
- Bill Bearden, Faculty Athletic Representative
- Dennis Pruitt, Student and Alumni Services
- Val Shealey, Associate Athletic Director
- Raymond Harrison, Director of Academic Support Operations, Athletics Dept.