The University Athletics Advisory Committee (AAC) met three times each semester during the 2001-2002 year, September though June. At the first meeting, the Chair outlined the duties of the committee as stated in the bylaws of the AAC. The major duties of the committee are to ensure that student athletes are challenged academically and that each student athlete has a positive collegiate experience. The committee routinely monitors athletes’ and teams’ grades, and the academic support system. A second major duty of the AAC is to encourage faculty, students, and coaches to work closely together toward the common goal of educating and graduating a high percentage of student athletes. Third, The AAC works with coaches, faculty, and the athletic department to produce graduates who will become successful citizens in their individual communities.

The meetings were well attended by all members. Dr. Mike McGee, Craig Curry, Laura Massa, and Tom Perry represented the athletic department; Drs. Elaine Frank, Rod Roenfeldt, Harold Friedman, William Mathias, Richard Conant and Scott Gwara represented the faculty. Mr. Art Bahnmuller represented the Board of Trustees and Dr. Susan VanHuss was the NCAA representative. Student members included Stuart Williams and Chris Henniger.

The AAC was given an open invitation to tour the enrichment center and the athletic facilities. Dr. McGee provided a special tour of the Arena, which is currently under construction and will be completed in November 2002. The Athletic department continues to provide community and university support to special events and in financial support. The AAC also participated in the Scholar Athletes Reception, which was very successful.

Dr. McGee attended all meetings or sent a representative. He scheduled coaches to attend about half of the meetings. Coaches provided more information on the needs of the teams and players in relation to academic areas. Dr. McGee made regular reports on the status of team programs. Dr. McGee also reported on the response to the terrorist activity in September and sought the committee’s input on appropriate changes in athletic events.

Dr. Susan VanHuss, NCAA/SEC representative was present at all meetings. She reported on legislative issues and sought committee input. The NCA recertification process was initiated this year. Each committee member served on a recertification committee to prepare for the visit in October of 2002.

The Registrar, Barbara Blaney, furnished academic information on all athletes. All team GPAs improved over previous years and graduation rates remained at a level above that of the general student population.

The committee elected Dr. Harold Friedman from the School of Medicine as the Chair of the AAC for the 2002-2003 academic year.