

Committee on Athletics

Minutes for Academic Year 2024-2025

Hybrid – COB 204 & Zoom | Meeting #3 | November 20th, 2024 @ 3:00 PM

In Attendance: Chris Karadjov, Milton Ordonez, Tirth Dave, Jake Conlon, Khue Duong, Kimberly Farell, Kurt Escobar, Perla Ayala, Alison Ede, Sandra Shirley, Natalie Raegan, Gary Metzker, Tiffany Edlin, Stephen Glass, Arline Walter

I. Calling the Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:11 PM.

II. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved at 3:12 PM.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from October 16th, 2024 were approved at 4:09 PM.

IV. Agenda

a. Chair's Report – Chris Karadjov, Chair of Committee on Athletics

- No news to report.

b. Presentation by Gary Metzker, JOUR 318 - Sports Journalism Class

- I have been at Long Beach State for 17 years. I teach classes in media design, mass media in society and sports journalism. Our sports journalism class is the first of its kind in the CSU system and is about 16 years old.
- Students can meet professionals in the business, and we often have guest speakers that come to class. John Ireland, a play-by-play commentator for the Laker's, Steve Mason, and Beto Duran are some of the most notable speakers who have come in the past. In Spring 2025, Stephen A Smith is coming to speak to the students.
- Chris asked for clarity on the types of jobs students are preparing for in the sport industry with this class. Some want broadcasting positions, some want to be behind camera or in production truck, and others want to be writing for websites and prints.
- Arlene asked how the class has integrated Artificial Intelligence into the curriculum and if it has caused any issues. This hasn't been an issue, the topics discussed in this class specifically are hard to mirror. Students must include quotes from guests to receive full points on some assignments.

- Kim asked if and how students are able to practice their play-by-play commentating. We encourage students to shadow when possible, but there are not many opportunities in the field for this. If they cannot find these positions, we tell them to practice with phones. There are many people in the industry currently who love to mentor.
- Kim asked if students have been pursuing experience at high school level. The NFHS is an organization that promotes high school sporting events by streaming games and providing play-by-play commentary. This is a subscription-based platform, but commentators are only assigned to some games in Orange County and Los Angeles County. The organization isn't widespread enough to do everything and its main focus is on promoting high school football. Commentators receive \$100 per game for their services, and they can add this experience to their industry real.
- Our students are blessed to be here at Long Beach State. Students are hesitant to take advantage of opportunities in front of them. 22 West you can do play-by-play and commentary and sports talk shows for interested students.

c. Presentation by Natalie Reagan, Women's Volleyball Interim Head Coach

- We always try to bridge the gap between athletics and academics for our players. Our student-athletes' classes typically after 1pm, with limited conflicts that are taken care of by our administrative staff.
- We have full-time academic advisors, tutoring help, and mandatory study hall hours to encourage our student-athletes to success in their schoolwork. We try to teach them financial literacy and skill building as well. We want girls graduating and becoming great young women.
- We also like to show our support to our faculty by hosting an honorary faculty night with professors, advisors and administrators.
- Our team's APR last academic year was 1000. We retained 100% of our players and 100% on track to graduate.
- Chris asked for the teams current ranking and if there are any upcoming games to note. There are currently 3 teams tied for 1st place in conference and 3 teams tied for 4th. We are currently one of the teams tied for 4th place and need to finish strong since only the top 6 teams advance. We are currently ranked 76th in the nation and need to win our last 3 matches to qualify for the NCAA tournament.
- We have a game this Friday against CSU Bakersfield and Saturday is our Senior Night against CSU Northridge. We have 9 seniors graduating this year.
- Chris asked about the player recruiting process and how our incoming class looks. Our 2025 recruit class ranked 11th in the nation and we retained all 7 girls. Current stars to highlight are Natalie Glenn, Zayna Meyer and Ella Lomigora.
- Chris asked if there has been any looking towards foreign players in the recruitment process. Canada, Spain, Portugal, Turkey and Italy are hot spots for recruiting international players.

- Khue asked how Zayna has recovered from her injury. She is fine now, but we are in the 6-2 for now as she fully recovers. We could end up in 5-1 soon.
- Chris recommended that anyone who has time should go to games.

d. Report from Tiffany Edlin, Senior Associate Director of Athletics

- Bobby is traveling with men's basketball, so I will be stepping in for him today. I have 8 years under my belt at Beach. I am in charge of things that touch the student-athlete experience.
- For the first time in school history, our student-athletes have met benchmark for NCAA APR at 985. We get an academic unit and financial resources because of this success. We have a 85% graduation success rate amongst our student-athletes.
- Our department is offering two 1-unit classes entitled Be a Champion. These classes are designed to help our student-athletes transition into college and out of college in their first and final years. We are building curriculum for 201 and 301 so that we can give students resources for all four levels of their 4 years.
- The champion networking night was highly attended. This was a job fair for our student-athletes.
- We have enhanced the nutrition center by adding snacks and a fueling station.
- If you are wondering how much money from House vs NCAA settlement is going to Long Beach, we don't know. April 7th of 2025 is the benchmark for when we know more specifics in term of figures and dollar amounts. There will be a Big West council meeting first week of December to discuss preparations for the outcome of the case.
- Men's Water Polo is going to Davis for the Big West Tournament. Their game is this Friday at noon.
- Perla asked if there was any way to watch the games. The Big West has a contract with ESPN and games must be filmed and streamed through their affiliates. All broadcasts are available through longbeachstate.com.

e. Discussion of Agenda Items for Spring

- Sandra suggested a Bickerstaff Presentation.
- Chris wants to add more coaches on agenda.
- Perla reiterated that it is good to hear from coaches and suggested that student-athletes should be invited.
- Chris reminded everyone that our student-athletes are very busy and typically have classes or practice during the time of our meetings.
- Sandra suggested to add a life skills report.

V. Announcements

There were no additional announcements made.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 19th, 2025.

Committee on Athletics: <https://www.csulb.edu/academic-senate/committee-athletics-coa>
Recurring Zoom Link: <https://csulb.zoom.us/j/84826104444>