

2020-2021 AY Athletic Council Report to the Faculty Senate

The Athletic Council met three times virtually: on October 22, 2020, January 28, and April 6, 2021. Each meeting has a similar pattern where Brad Edwards, Asst. Vice-President and Director of Athletics provides an overview and update on the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (ICA) related to personnel updates, academic, and athletic achievements, and projects ICA is working on. The Faculty Athletic Representative, Dr. Dominique Banville then provides an update on activities/work perform in her role. If any business was conducted within the sub-committees and action items are needed, the members of the council are then invited to provide feedback or vote on specific motions.

Some of the notable elements share this past academic year by AD Edwards are:

- The amazing work performed by the ICA staff considering all the COVID-19 restrictions to have over 500 student-athletes back on campus and competing safely. More specifically the leadership of Dr. Debi Corbatta not only on campus but at the conference (A10) and National (NCAA) levels was noted
- The work achieved by the ICA staff in helping with virus testing in the Fall and coordinating and successfully having 22 teams compete in the Spring, with days where multiple events are occurring at the same time
- The creation of an ICA Diversity and Inclusion Committee under the leadership of Nena Rodgers and participation of coaches, administrators, and staff members. Nena is also a member of President Washington's Task Force on Anti-Racism & Inclusive Excellence, and a member of the A-10 Commission on Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.
- The addition on a full-time basis of Dr. Derek Vigon to the Sports Performance team
- The hiring of a new men's basketball coach, Kim English, and Women's basketball coach, Vanessa Blair-Lewis
- A record 65 Peter N. Sterns Provost Scholar-Athletes
- A 2020 Fall Cumulative 3.46 GPA by student-athletes
- All 22 sports with a cumulative GPA over 3.0

Some of the notable elements share this past academic year done by FAR Banville are:

- Met with President Washington and Chief-of-staff Ken Walsh in August to share work done so far and the role and responsibilities the FAR has traditionally played at Mason
- Participated in numerous A-10 FARs Conference Calls
- Attended the virtual NCAA Regional Rule Seminar; different webinars organized by the ICA, A10 Conference Office, NCAA, and the FAR Association (FARA); the A10 annual meeting, and the NCAA convention
- Worked with Kristi Giddings (Compliance) and Nena Rogers (Academic support) on the Academic Progress Rate (APR) to determine how to best achieve the qualifying score of 985 to have access to Revenue Distribution money. The score is a combination of Eligibility and Retention points each SA on athletic financial aid earn every year
- Coming ahead is the administration of the Student-Athlete End-of-year survey and, if available through the A10, the selection of the postgraduate scholarship.

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Dominique Banville, Faculty Athletic Representatives on April 13, 2021

Appendix A
Responses to Questions from Faculty Senate

1. During the past calendar year has the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President (or their respective offices) announced initiatives or goals or acted upon issues that fall under the charge of your Committee? If so, was your Committee consulted by the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President in a timely manner before the announcement or action? If not, do you believe your Committee should have been consulted? Would it have been helpful to have had the input of your Committee from the outset?

Answer: No initiatives or goals or acted upon issues fell under the charge of our committee.

2. Did your Committee seek information or input from the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President or members of their staff? If so, did they respond adequately and in a timely manner?

Answer: Communication was initiated by the FAR with the Chief-of-Staff Ken Walsh and the response was adequate and prompt.

3. Please suggest how you believe the President, Provost, Senior Vice President and/or their staffs might more effectively interact with your Committee in the future, if necessary.

Answer: The President's Chief-of-Staff has attended part or entire meetings so the interactions this year were great.

4. Please relate any additional information you may have regarding interactions between your Committee and the President, Provost, Senior Vice President, or their staff.

Answer: We always have a representative from the President's Office (Ken Walsh) and the Provost office (Janette Muir), along with Asst. Vice-President and Director of Athletics Brad Edwards attend the meetings.