

**UTK Faculty Senate
Athletics Sub-Committee**

Minutes for February 9, 2015 Meeting

Present: Dean Kopsell (chair), Matt Cooper, Ray DeGennaro, Todd Dooley, Jeff Fairbrother, Rex Pringle, Andy Puckett, Cary Staples, Donna Thomas, Songning Zhang, Julie Eckel (student athlete representative), Don Bruce (Faculty Athletics Representative), Jim Brosnan (guest speaker), Adam Thoms (guest speaker).

The meeting was located in the Thornton Athletics Student Life Center and called to order at 3:00 pm by Dean Kopsell. Agenda for the meeting was a presentation by Dr. Jim Brosnan and Mr. Adam Thoms on the Center for Athletic Field Safety. Highlights of the overview included:

- Description of the site which is a joint project between Plant Sciences and AstroTurf LLC.
- Description of the research projects involving both natural and synthetic turf surfaces. Projects included: traffic tolerance for natural and synthetic surfaces; shoe traction for natural and synthetic surfaces; impacts of weed management on surface hardness; and a description of the Tennessee Athletic Field Tester (TAFT).
- Discussion also focused on turfgrass management and how it can impact surface conditions and player safety.

There was a great discussion by members of the committee and the invited speakers.

We also discussed the current make up, priorities, and responsibilities of the Athletics Committee. Our committee represents a good cross section of campus faculty who have connections to UT Athletics. There was a consensus by the group that the committee serves an important purpose through interactions with UT Athletics. The size of the committee works well for the agenda of the meetings. Agendas for this year have been informative. The term length for membership on committee could be increased to 2 years for continuity.

Our next meeting is March 9, 2015.