

**UTK Faculty Senate
Athletics Sub-Committee**

Minutes for September 22, 2014 Meeting

Present: Dean Kopsell, Matthew Cooper, Ray DeGennaro, Jeff Fairbrother, Derek Hopko, Chris Magra, Vickie Mayfield, Rex Pringle, Andy Puckett, Joe Scogin, Cary Staples, Donna Thomas, Songning Zhang, Cameron Brown (student athlete representative), Julie Eckel (student athlete representative).

Meeting called to order at 3:30 pm by Dean Kopsell. Agenda was an introduction to the Thornton Athletics Student Life Center. Joe Scogin, Center Director, provided an overview of the staff, programs, and support services at the center. Highlights of the overview included:

- Description of the Academic Counselor for the student athletes. Each team has assigned academic mentors, with over 100 in all serving UT athletes.
- Emphasis is placed on education/mentoring in the first semester of the first year on campus. Success during this time period is a strong predictor of overall student success.
- 5 aspects of the first year program for athletes includes: career counseling; communications; ready-for-the-world program; identity counseling; leadership training. Known collectively as the Evolve Program.
- Description of a program for junior/senior athletes called the Vol Leadership Academy.
- Last phase of educational training includes preparation for the transition out of college after graduation and preparation for what to expect in the real world.

These were great discussions by members of the committee and input by the student athlete representatives on the committee. The meeting ended with a short tour of the facilities for student athletes at the center, which included the front desk check-in for all student athletes using the center, large tutoring and study rooms; small private tutoring rooms; a computer center for the athletes.

Agenda for next meeting on Oct. 27, 2014 will be compliance issues for UT Athletics and impacts on student athletes.