UTK Faculty Senate
Athletics Sub-Committee

Minutes for February 29, 2016 Meeting

Present: Dean Kopsell (chair), Dawn Coe, Ray DeGennaro, Jennifer Gramling, Chris Magra, Vickie Mayfield, Rex Pringle (ex officio), Joe Scogin (ex officio), Cary Staples, Sally Hunter, Andrew Adam (SGA), guests: Andrew Donovan (UT Athletics – Compliance); Theresa Lee (Dean, College of Arts & Sciences); Charles Collins (Interim Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences).

The meeting was located in the Thornton Athletics Student Life Center and called to order at 3:30 pm by chair Dean Kopsell. Guests were Jennifer Gramling, Director of UT On-line Programs, Theresa Lee, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and Charles Collins, Interim Associate Dean of Academic Programs, College of Arts & Sciences. Jennifer Gramling presented information on the on-line programs at UT and how they pertain to UT Student Athletes. She outlined the program and explained her philosophy about on-line courses. She explained that UT uses on-line courses mainly for academic sessions (summer and short session) when students are not physically on campus. This is much different than other larger universities which may often use on-line courses to solve problems such as high enrollments and/or lack of classroom/instructional space. She provided material for the committee that related to academic integrity for students enrolled in on-line courses for credit. Deans from the College of Arts & Sciences were invited to attend by Jennifer and they participated in our discussion and contributed valuable information about potential fraudulent companies who provide materials and/or proxy students for on-line courses on a fee-based scale.

The discussion was lively and academic advisors in the Thornton Center described how they help student athletes manage on-line courses and UT’s BlackBoard on-line course management system.

Next meeting will be on the topic of admission policies for student athletes. Our speakers will be Kari Alldredge, Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Associate Provost for Enrollment Management, and Sarah Beth Clark, Director of Compliance UT Athletics.