

**UTK Faculty Senate  
Athletics Sub-Committee**

**Minutes for September 28, 2015 Meeting**

*Present:* Dean Kopsell (chair), Don Bruce (ex officio), Dawn Coe, Matt Cooper, Mike Ward (ex officio), Jennifer Gramling, Chris Magra, Vicki Mayfield, Rex Pringle (ex officio), Joe Scogin (ex officio), Cary Staples, Sally Hunter, Donna Thomas (ex officio), Ashlee Boles (UT student athlete), Andrew Adams (SGA member), guests: Kayla Smith (Thornton Center), Andrew Donovan (UT Athletics – Compliance).

The meeting was located in the Thornton Athletics Student Life Center and called to order at 3:30 pm by Dean Kopsell (chair). Introductions were made and old business was discussed: review of the committee's charges and goals for the year. Agenda for the meeting was a discussion with the directors of the Thornton Athletics Student Life Center. Dr. Joe Scogin (Senior Associate Athletic Director and Assistant Provost) and Kayla Smith (Director of Student-Athlete Development) discussed the new programs for student athletes administered by the center.

Kayla Smith described the Community Outreach and Personal Development programs. She provided the committee with the numbers of 5500+ hours of service logged by student athletes over the past year (92% participation). Programs included clothing drives, Read Across America Day participation, mentoring in local schools, and attendance at local charity/organization functions. She said most team sports select an outreach program to focus on for the year. Committee member Ashlee Boles described her participation in mentoring at Pond Gap Elementary School and the commitment of outreach on her (Tennis) team.

Dr. Joe Scogin presented information on the new VOLeaders Academy program. The program is a partnership among the Center for Leadership & Service, the Center for Sport, Peace, & Society, and the UT Athletics Department. The inaugural class of participants were selected from nominations across all sports and has 13 members. The year-long program includes course work in leadership, peer and mentor interactions, and culminates with an international experience to engage in sport and community. Students will learn “how to positively impact their team, campus, and local and global communities”. The program is designed to emphasize servant leadership, transformational leadership, emotional intelligent leadership, and strengths based leadership. Committee member Ashlee Boles is a member of the inaugural class of the VOleaders Academy and described it as one of the best experiences of her life.

Both of the programs highlight the commitment to education and outreach by the staff at the center and demonstrate how our student athletes on campus are being prepared for life after graduation.

Next meeting will be October 26, 2015 – Allison Maurer (Sport Nutritionist), Anderson Training Center