



UAAAC Minutes

Date 11/13/2025 Start Time 3:30 PM Adjournment Time 4:05 PM Location SSC Conf. Rm
 Type of Meeting Regular Special

CHAIR	Shannon Banks (Interim)
SECRETARY	Shelly Barton
ATTENDEES	Rob Bernardi, Ty Harp, Leigh Hersey, Anthony Malta, Patti Pate, Megan Smith, Cody Sparrow, Josh Tolleson, Carmen Wright
ABSENT (EXCUSED)	Ty Harp, DeRon Talley

Agenda

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS	
The meeting minutes from the October 23,2025 meeting were distributed and approved.	
DISCUSSION TOPICS	
<p>The meeting was called to order by Shannon Banks.</p> <p>FAR Update: (Leigh Hersey):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Faculty of the Year: Dr. Gann to be recognized at the upcoming football game against South Alabama on Faculty Appreciation Day. where 28 seniors will be recognized as well, possibly extending into Sunday. Discussions for this year's faculty of the year will begin when we return in January. -Emphasis on promoting postgraduate scholarships for student athletes. Any who are interested need to reach out to Leigh. - Faculty encouraged to refer interested student athletes for guidance and application support -Leigh and Crystal plan to attend the SBC basketball tournament in March for recruiting opportunities where over 600 students are expected to be present. -Reports of coaches pulling athletes from class for meetings, which violates NCAA rules. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some students miss class for advising appointments scheduled during class time. • Faculty asked to report such incidents to compliance officers (Cody, Rob, and the chair). • Plan to hold a workshop in January to educate about compliance issues. -Discussion ensued on student athletes being "punished" for missing class with excused absences where attendance points or bonus points were given. Discussion on whether to provide make-up opportunities for athletes missing class due to competitions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: A class with 175 participation points, requiring only 100 for full credit, provides enough cushion for missed. Athletes who miss these opportunities could be affected by an entire letter grade. <p>Athletics/Compliance (Rob Bernardi, Carmen Wright):</p> <p>Rob gave an update on fall sports as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Volleyball closing out season this week with senior night -Women's soccer program 13-3 on the season with Coach Will Roberts being named SBC coach of the year with one of our players being named player of the year. Finished 2nd in the conference championship, losing in the championship game in Alabama. These athletes had an outstanding season on and off the field. -Soccer player, Skyler Blaze was featured in Bayou Life magazine -At 10 AM, prior to the football game, the Hall of Fame induction will take place. Inductees include Kolton Browning, Chris Harris, Arthur Christophe, Ben Soignier, Wilson Campbell, and the 1984-85 women's basketball team. Only 2nd time in hall of fame history that a team has been inducted. Lisa Ingram jersey to be retired as well. -House Bill 639 increases online gambling tax; projected to provide \$1.7M-\$2.4M annually to state athletic departments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion had regarding use of these funds. - Cody: discussion on issues with gambling tax - Cody: APR (Academic Progress Rate) and GSR (Graduation Success Rate) calculations explained. • Some point losses due to transfers and students not graduating within the expected timeframe. 	

- Anticipated improvement in scores as students graduate in December.
 - 930 is the benchmark for multi-year APR; current score is 930.7.
- Football transfer portal now opens January 2–16, creating scheduling challenges. Anticipated influx of 15–20 new athletes in spring.
- Division II considering extending eligibility to five years; Division I not currently adopting this policy.

Academics (Anthony Malta, Patti Pate, Carmen Wright):

Class Scheduling Issues:

- Carmen: SAC members (high-performing athletes) report that some professors penalize absences for competitions, affecting grades.
- Not all faculty build in participation point cushions; need for clearer communication and policy consistency Difficulty placing athletes in required classes due to limited sections and schedule conflicts. Schedules for most part are done. Patti spoke on these issues as well and need for greater variety and flexibility in course offerings
- Carmen spoke on classroom climate concerns: Reports of a professor making offensive comments, particularly targeting international athletes. Issue remains unresolved; to be addressed further

Equity and Student Well-Being (Leigh Hersey):

-Mental Health Initiatives:

- Healthy Blue interested in sponsoring campus mental health and wellness programs.
- Potential \$2,500 sponsorships being explored.
- Suggestions to propose athlete-focused or general student wellness initiatives for funding.

Other Business:

All faculty and staff encouraged to attend athletic events and support our athletes!

- Next meeting will be set for February 2026. Date and time to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 pm

CONCLUSIONS		

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Approved by committee/council chair Yes on