



UAAAC Minutes

Date 10/23/2025 Start Time 3:30 PM Adjournment Time 4:24 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, Megan Smith, Josh Tolleson, Carmen Wright
ABSENT (EXCUSED)	Bryant Vincent, Patti Pate, Cody Sparrow, DeRon Talley

Agenda

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS	
The meeting minutes from the September 16, 2025 meeting were distributed and approved with correction of typo.	
DISCUSSION TOPICS	
<p>The meeting was called to order by Shannon Banks.</p> <p>FAR Update: (Leigh Hersey): SBC Fall meeting was held in Atlanta in mid-October. Topics discussed during the FAR meetings: Importance of having dedicated study halls for student athletes attending conference tournaments as these tend to happen around finals. When these tournaments are not held on campus, faculty will work to make arrangements for these students to have a place to study. Faculty and teams were encouraged to report academic conflicts and need for assistance. -The FARS met with student athletes and representatives and discussed campus culture, NILs, transfer portals, etc. -There will be an Education day at the SBC tournament in Pensacola scheduled for March 5th, 2026. 400+ high school students will be attendance with representatives from each university there to share information about their programs. -The International FARA Institute meeting will take place in Indianapolis in November with Leigh planning to attend.</p> <p>- Sonya Weerasignhe was in attendance for our UAAAC meeting as the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) representative. She attended the SBC Fall meeting and shared that two missions for the year were discussed and included: 1) Mental Health and Well Being for student athletes and 2) Life after sports - A psychologist from S. Alabama discussed balancing peer pressure and performance while career counselors were present to conduct mock interviews and help with resumes.</p> <p>Athletics/Compliance (Rob Bernardi, Carmen Wright): Rob gave an update on fall sports and distributed a report of the Athletic Directors form the SBC fall meeting. He highlighted the following: Jeremy McClain (Southern Miss) and Matt Roan (James Madison) were approved for the AD chair and AD Vice Chair, respectively for next year's committee -Approval of an increase from 15% to 20% of revenue from football championship game to go to host school -Basketball seeding ties would be determined by NET ranking -Visible pitch clocks in softball were approved. -Budget concerns from each school was discussed including ways to consolidate expenses Monday, Oct 27th is the tipoff luncheon for basketball season in Bayou Pointe. Rob shared a flyer for the upcoming ULM Hall of Fame inductees and wanted input from the committee about the Letterman's Club's involvement in selecting the inductees or if this should be coming from ULM athletics. Leigh will look at other school committees responsible for selecting HOF inductees and share at our next meeting. Carmen stated that registration for athletes was on Tuesday, Nov 4th. -Students athletes sign forms giving counselors full access to their student records, so there should be no issue discussing grades or progress between counselors and faculty.</p>	

- Seeing issues with professors not updating Canvas grades making it difficult to monitor academics as far as needing to drop a course
- At fall meeting, the importance of Shared Governance (giving the student athlete a voice in decisions being made) was reiterated
- NIL signing dates will be in late December going into the first of January; will have a skeleton crew on hand to help with issues.
- There is an athletic trainer shortage for many schools
- Proposal to increase number of schools attending SBC soccer tournament from 8 to 10. It was previously 14 but was reduced to 8 to give participants time to rest before NCAA tournament games.

Academics (Anthony Malta, Patti Pate, Carmen Wright):
 Registration starts on Nov 4th for special groups, including athletes.

- Equity and Student Well-Being (Leigh Hersey):
- Student athletes are not supposed to miss class for practice.
 - Cody and Leigh are meeting with Dr. McEacharn about having an educational session for faculty during Spring faculty week to identify UAAAC committee representatives. This will enable faculty to know who to contact about issues.
 - Student Athlete Identity was discussed in recent student athlete meeting with FAR regarding "What are you after you graduate?" given they will no longer be student athletes.
 - United Way Campaign - "Gear up for Giving" kicks off on Oct 27th.

Other Business:
 Doodle poll will be sent out to determine our Nov meeting date/time
 Nov 15th - Military appreciation day/Faculty appreciation day - Dr. Gann will be recognized for ULM's faculty of the year award.
 Lastly, Kristi Davis was in attendance and shared with the group that she is working on her dissertation for her doctoral program and wanted to observe and gather information on athletic decision making to help with her dissertation. She expressed her thanks for being allowed to join us.

- 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