The UTSA Athletics Council is comprised of stakeholders in athletics from across campus, including faculty, representatives from key academic and administrative units, and senior leaders of the Department of Athletics. The Council’s role is to provide advice to the President of the university on the policies and procedures for the operation of Intercollegiate Athletics at UTSA. The Athletics Council reviews policies and procedures to ensure compliance with NCAA rules, provides recommendations to the president on the operation of athletics on campus, and reviews relevant NCAA rules and legislation.

Athletics Council held seven meetings over the course of the 2017-18 Academic Year. Below is a summary of the topics discussed and activities undertaken at these meetings.

**Academics**

The Council reviewed APR data as well as APR policies and regulations. The APR data allowed for comparison across sports and, within sports, across semesters and years.

Academic grade reports were provided each semester for review and discussion.

The Council discussed the implementation and ramifications of the developing Instructor Withdrawal policy.

The Chair presented to Council on planning by Athletics and the College of Business to put procedures in place to ensure any student-athletes who seek to participate in summer international programming do not have a conflict with their athletic commitment.

The Associate Athletic Director for Academics, working with Academic Integrity Subcommittee, spearheaded effort win necessary approvals to allow Athletics advisors to have read-only access to student-athlete BlackBoard accounts in order to better monitor their academic progress and proactively address any potential problems. This work is ongoing.

**Compliance**

The Associate Athletic Director for Compliance presented to Council on significant new legislation adopted by the NCAA.

Council reviewed the Athletics Code of Conduct, discussing penalty structure and process for implementing penalties. Council did not recommend any revisions at this time but recognizes that a broader overhaul of the Code may be developed in the near future.

Anne Jimenez, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Conduct and Community Standards, presented to Council on the investigation and penalty process when students (including student-athletes) face disciplinary charges related to academic or non-academic misconduct.

**Reports**

The Athletic Director briefed Council each month on the latest developments in the operation of the Department. In Fall 2017, Interim Athletic Director Sam Gonzales made these reports. Issues discussed
included: the Athletic Director search, facilities updates and planning, Final Four preparations, budget and financial issues in the Department, and personnel changes in the administration and coaching staffs.

The Faculty Athletics Representative and chair of the Athletics Council provided reports on conference and national meetings he attended, including the CUSA spring and fall meetings, the D1A FAR meeting, and the annual NCAA Convention.

The Associate Athletic Director for Academics provided detailed academic grade and APR reports each semester. These reports highlighted team GPAs, trends in team and Department academic performance, and DFW data for all sports.

The Associate Athletic Director for Compliance provided quarterly reports on secondary violations. His reports demonstrated that UTSA has established a culture of compliance in which staff and coaches regularly prioritize rule-adherence and self-report any violations.

Student-Athlete Welfare

The Chair made a presentation on the NCAA’s “Perceptions of College Athletics” survey that demonstrated low-level of support among college faculty and staff nationwide. The Council discussed opportunities to enhance awareness on our own campus of the benefits of athletics for student-athletes as well as the strong character and commitment to UTSA exhibited by student-athletes.

Coaches Visits

The Council met with coaches of several of our teams to learn more about their programs—the challenges they face, the issues that are of concern to them, and the recruiting process for their sport. These meetings are educational for the Council and allow for the committee to address any concerns the coaches have.

In 2017-18 the Council met with the following coaches:

Steve Henson – Men’s Basketball
Michelle Cheatham – Softball
Kristen Holt – Women’s Basketball
Frank Wilson – Football

Submitted by: Gregg L. Michel, Chair
Athletics Council