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**Subject:** Report from the Athletic Committee meeting  
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The meeting was rather uneventful. I will give you a quick summary.

- 1) The new Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) will be Dr. Craig Martin from the Marketing Department (who will be replacing James Brown effective July 1). The President appointed him sometime last month - and it was announced at our meeting on Wednesday, February 22.
- 2) At a Senate meeting last fall, a senator raised some concerns over a policy that the NCAA was considering which would have allowed universities to pay athletes a cost of living stipend. The NCAA did not approve this proposal - so it is not an immediate concern. However, Ross did mention that a similar proposal may come back next year for their consideration.
- 3) The NCAA did pass a new policy that allows universities to offer student athletes multiple year scholarships. Currently, universities offer student athletes scholarships on an annual basis - so renewal occurs each academic year. Under the new policy - a university could offer a recruit a full four year athletic scholarship. The concern here is that this will be another item used in the recruiting process. If UK or UofL offers a recruit a four year scholarship, then WKU would have to match that same offer if they hoped to attract the same recruit. This poses some significant challenges for coaches as well in that they have to manage a set number of scholarship players for some sports.
- 4) As you know, student athletes provide their professors with a form at the beginning of the semester that shows the days the student athlete will miss due to team travel. The athletic department and the athletic committee are going to explore some ways to make the presentation of this information more clear so that each faculty member knows exactly how many days the student will miss in a given semester based on the schedule of the course. For example, classes that meet on MWF at 9:10 may not require the student to miss any classes, whereas classes that meet on TTH at 2:20 may require the student to miss 3 classes. The current forms list all of the days the student will miss for the semester - which should be adequate - but it does require the student and faculty member to match up the list with the schedule of course. We're going to see if there is a way to present this information in a more clear way so the student and professor know the specific number of days the student will be absent from a specific course in a given semester.
- 5) Ross spent a few minutes discussing changes in the leadership of the Sun Belt Conference. The new Sun Belt Commissioner, Karl Benson, is the former commissioner of the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) - so he brings a lot of experience to his new role as our commissioner. His main goal/priority is to strengthen the Sun Belt Conference.
- 6) Ross also discusses the coaching change in Men's Basketball and how he and the President realized that Ray Harper was the perfect candidate for the position - and thus, offered him the position. He also said at our meeting (which again was on Feb 22) that the team was working hard hoping to make a run and win four games at the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.
- 7) Finally, the format for the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) in college football is being reexamined - and changes are being debated. We learned that President Ransdell is one of 12 university presidents involved in these debates and discussions. You can see the list of the Presidential Oversight Committee

members here: <http://www.bcsfootball.org/news/story?id=4809846>