

DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

THIRD REGULAR MEETING OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL FOR 2017-2018

The University of Texas at Austin
Main Building, Room 212

Monday, November 13, 2017
2:15 PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- I. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY** (D 15563-15566)— Alan W. Friedman (Professor, English).
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**
 - A. Minutes of the Regular Faculty Council Meeting of October 16, 2017 (D 15572-15590).
- III. COMMUNICATION WITH THE PRESIDENT**—Gregory L. Fenves
 - A. Comments by the President.
 - B. Questions to the President— See attachment.
- IV. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**— Steven D. Hoelscher (Professor, American Studies, Geography and the Environment).
- V. REPORT OF THE CHAIR ELECT**—Charlotte Canning (Professor, Theatre and Dance).
- VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**—None.
- VII. REPORTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY, COLLEGES, SCHOOLS, AND COMMITTEES**—None.
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS.**
 - A. Report from Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI)— Anel Fils-Aime (Director of SCAI).
 - B. Report from the Research Policy Committee—Tracie C. Harrison (Committee Chair and Professor, Nursing).
 - C. Report from the Senate of College Councils (SCC)—Austin Reynolds (SCC President).
- IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS.**
 - A. The deadline to protest the Update to the Core Curriculum Course Lists for 2018-2019 (D 15557-15562) is November 20.
 - B. The next Faculty Council meeting will be held on December 11.
 - C. Recommendations for change to General Faculty Standing Committees' functions and composition are due by December 11.
 - D. Share your concerns, ideas, and questions with Central IT Executive Commission <<https://citec.financials.utexas.edu/about>>.
- X. QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIR.**
- XI. ADJOURNMENT.**

Alan W. Friedman

Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

Distributed through the Faculty Council Wiki site <https://wikis.utexas.edu/display/facultycouncil/Wiki+Home> on November 9, 2017.

Questions to the President

In regard to the 16 October 2017 minutes of the 18 September 2017 meeting of the Faculty Council and the New Business A and B of Athletics Director Mike Perrin, I have a question in two parts A and B.

I have in my memory what I still judge to be a truthful statement by a recent athletics director that “the student athletes have a full-time job (i.e., ca. 40 hours per week) as athletes and then there is the academics”.

This is confirmed by news reports that student athletes *do* spend ca. 40 hours a week and up on their sports (<http://www.businessinsider.com/college-student-athletes-spend-40-hours-a-week-practicing-2015-1>). The NCAA’s own surveys (in 2010 and 2006) proved that athletes in their own FBS-level programs spent closer to 40 hours a week (<https://www.athleticbusiness.com/ncaa-survey-athletes-time-on-sports-trumps-books.html>) or more on athletics.

This is far in excess of the NCAA’s own 20-Hour-Limit Rule. However, a look at how NCAA practice and exercise hours are calculated is head-swimmingly complex: <https://www.ncaa.org/sites/default/files/20-Hour-Rule-Document.pdf> and their charts and guidelines provide lots of opportunity for flim flam.

I was not surprised when Sports director Mike Perrin brought out (New Business FC Meeting 18 September 2017) that a swim team member at UT Will Licon

wakes up daily at 5 AM,
does swim practices for 1.5 hrs, 6-7:30,
manages a quick bite,
attends classes 8-12, finding it by his own words hard to stay awake,
works with trainer and weights for 2 hours, 1-3
and then practices in the pool for another 2 hours from 3-5.

So practice time is 5.5 hours per day minimum.

There is then dinner followed by studies (6 or 6:30 or 7-9? or 9:30- 10?)

And this is just time spent in practice, not at meets and travel to and from them.

If this is maintained daily then the 5.5 hours per day times 5 make this 27.5 hours.

If there is a ‘day off’ then 22 hours.

Either way just this basic practice is in excess of the 20-hour NCAA rule without factoring in other hours of time. And the student himself admits to being fatigued during classes.

If Will Licon sleeps let us say 7 hours a night, he has to be asleep by 10PM. How many class hours is he taking and when does he fit in the 15 hours a semester average he will need to graduate? Does he take 3 hours of classes per day every day? Is this kind of regimen really praiseworthy?

Finally, it has long been acknowledged that the problem sports are football, basketball and baseball, not ‘swimming’. What are the GPA’s of student athletes in each of these three sports? What do their days look like?

Also since students are being highly encouraged to graduate in 4 years, what are 4-year-graduation rates for the football, basketball and baseball student athletes?

B. Lastly, what did Mike Perrin mean when he claimed that “[o]ther than the GI Bill, athletic scholarships have educated more people than any other program”?

By his own statistics 100 student athletes graduate every year from UT Austin. The university had roughly 7000

beginning undergrad students in 2013 and a 4-year graduation rate of 66%. So roughly 4600 graduated. Many more of these than 100 must have had forms of academic scholarships that enabled them to graduate. And something like the same ratios must play out NCAA school by NCAA school. So the claim, on the surface, seems preposterous.

Also the GI Bill was a national program. So far as I know sports scholarships are mainly given from in-house in-program generated funds and do not fall under any such rubric as a nationwide Student-Athlete Bill. Would you care to comment on why an athletics director would make such a claim?

Many thanks,

Tom Palaima Professor Classics