

StFX University
Athletic Equity and Safe Sport Advisory Committee
October 3, 2024 Morrison Hall Boardroom

Present: Monica Foster, Elizabeth Yeo, Wendy Langley, Megan Fogarty, Krista McKenna, Matt Spencer, Gary Waterman, Leo MacPherson, Akwiana Akpan, Charlene Weaving, Gatluak James

Regrets: Grace Bourret, Greg Hadley

- Monica welcomed the group and gave a brief overview of the agenda
- Elizabeth commented on the September Campus Community Update- that it was well received and was also presented at the recent Faculty Meeting. She also informed the committee that the new Sexual Violence Prevention Education Coordinator would be starting in this new role on Monday.
- Charlene provided an update from the Safe Sport Subcommittee
 - Their group is currently in data collection mode
 - They have been looking into AFAs, females head coach numbers, female assistant coach numbers
 - They are still awaiting some more requested info from various departments
 - Their next subcommittee meeting they plan to start reviewing the data.
- Charlene brought up the topic of “primetime” spots for Varsity games. Krista will send Charlene the current Homecoming Policy on the topic. Charlene would also like a survey to be sent to student-athletes to get their feedback on what the preferred playing slots would be.
- Wendy noted that public perception can be that the early game tends to be considered the opening act. She also let the committee know that the Alumni Dept will be sending out a survey asking what the preferred time of year for Homecoming would be.
- Charlene suggested a poll of the Women’s Hockey team to find out how they feel about having 5 Sunday afternoon games this season.
- Krista followed up to this with an explanation of how AUS typically does the schedule, and the difficulty involved in overlapping sports, venue availability, etc.
- As a group it was decided that a survey should go to ALL student-athletes on scheduling. Charlene suggested separate surveys for Men vs Women and both be anonymous but indicate by what sport.

- Elizabeth gave an update on the Equity Committee in Greg's Absence.
 - They have had 3 meetings since June
 - Looking into team data, current policies, landscape surveying
 - They want to work towards setting guidelines for student support staff
 - Also planning to work towards a reporting mechanism that includes an external (to athletics) support team.

- Gary wanted to give an example of perspective to the committee. He spoke of a student athlete on his team that was called out in class by the professor as "hey football player". The student was kicked out of class for being on their phone without the opportunity to give explanation. Gary assisted him with a meeting with the Deans. This led to the student eventually dropping the class.

- The committee was made aware of an incident that happened during and after the Take Back the Night event on campus the night before. Someone used chalk to write hateful things on the ground in front of the Saputo Centre and on the Smile you're at X Sign. Elizabeth and Monica confirmed that this incident has been reported and escalated to be looked into.

- Krista let the committee know that moving forward all student-athletes will be required to take the Safe Sport course.

Next Meeting: November 7 9:30am Morrison Hall Boardroom