

# Finlandia University Athletic Committee Report May 1, 2018

In January 2018, Geri Hawley (FAR) met with Curtis Wittenberg (AD) and Bridget Durocher (Assist. AD) to get an athletic committee set up at Finlandia University. The first order of business was to find committee members who will represent both academics and sports at Finlandia. Bridget and Curtis were able to find a male and female coach interested in representing the coaching staff. Geri referred to Fredi deYampert to give suggestions of faculty members who would be willing to join the committee.

The newly formed committee met on February 21, 2018 to discuss the role of the committee and what actions (if any) should be taken this semester. The committee members at the meeting were: Bridget Durocher and Geri Hawley (Co-Chairs of the committee), Curtis Wittenberg (ex-officio advisor), Brent Chase (men's head soccer coach), Katherine Hannagan (women's head softball coach), and Mark Lounibos (Associate Professor of English). Student athlete representatives (Zuleiki Wight and Matt Benolkin) were discussed, but not present at the time of the meeting.

At the meeting, the committee reviewed their Mission Statement and Duties, provided by the university. Then they turned their attention to setting the following goals which could be achieved by the end of the semester:

Goal #1 – Implement a functioning, effective progress report

Goal #2 – Plan a faculty/coach social at the Downtowner to help bridge good relations between the two factions.

## RESULTS:

Goal #1 – The committee reviewed the progress report devised by the task force (See NOTE below). After adding a few minor formatting changes, the committee decided to do a "test run" with the new progress report. The test group consisted of one "average" student from each of the sports teams. Progress report forms were sent to every faculty member of the students in the test group. The return rate of the test group progress reports was good. The committee then sent out a quick survey to all the faculty involved in the test. As of today, only one of the faculty members have responded to the survey. The committee would like to make revisions to the progress report form if so indicated by the faculty survey results. At this time it is hard to make changes based on one survey, so we will wait until the committee hears from other faculty members.

Goal #2 – The social at the DT took place on Friday March 23<sup>rd</sup> and was well attended by both faculty and coaches and appeared to be successful in helping bridge relationships between faculty and coaches. Because of the apparent success of this social event, the athletic department, in conjunction with the athletic committee, would like to sponsor more of these socials throughout the summer and school year.

**NOTE:** On February 8<sup>th</sup>, Finlandia University sponsored an Academics/Athletics Luncheon, open to all faculty and coaching staff. The meeting was set up as an open forum to help introduce faculty and coaches and discuss any topic that needed discussing. The main topic of discussion at that meeting was the new progress report forms recently implemented by the athletics department. The result of this meeting was the creation of a task force which would review the progress reports and make suggestions for revisions. The task force devised a new progress report form. The task force consisted of the following members: Bridget Durocher, Rob Boss, Monique Bourdage, John Motherwell, and Theresa Rajala-Halsey.

Respectfully submitted by Geri Hawley Co-Chair of the Athletic Committee