

FSAC meeting Sept. 27, 2010

1. Eric Brey presented information about the Thornton Center (TC). He discussed the various activities and how they work to the benefit of the student – athlete. He entertained questions that led to a better understanding of how the center operates and how the athletes are expected to behave as students.
 - a. The Director of the Center reports to the Provost, not athletics. Funding is completely from athletics.
 - b. All athletes are expected to attend class. Athletes know the dates during the semester when events in their sport are scheduled. They are to bring a letter to the instructor documenting that on the first day of class. The TC staff would really appreciate better support from the faculty regarding athletes who skip class. The conflict arises because some, perhaps many, instructional staff do not take attendance.
 - c. The TC staff do not provide a memorandum requesting note takers or special consideration for test taking. The student athlete must register with the Office of Disability Services for the type of support just like any other student at the university. Once approved by ODS, the student is then issued a letter from ODS that indicates approved accommodations. The TC requires the student-athlete to have those letters signed and returned to the TC prior to services being granted.

The principal concern expressed is to continue to work toward a good working relationship with all faculty (instructional staff) with a goal of getting their support in working with the student athletes.

2. Jacqui Schuman, Assistant Director for Student Development, presented a plan to establish a pilot Faculty/Administration Mentor Program.

This is modeled after an existing program linking an athlete with a member of the local business community.

“This program is designed to match the University of Tennessee students with on campus faculty/administration members. Mentors become on-campus advisors to students, able to help students progress through their university career?”

”Mentors benefit from building relationships with and impacting the lives of students, helping them grow and develop as they transition through the university. The university also benefits from the retention of students who are better connected to the campus, faculty, and staff members and further engaged in the classroom. The entire local community eventually gains because this program helps us develop our students and keep our best and brightest young people working in and contributing to our local economy after graduation. The program is a fine opportunity for students to make friends in the university and receive advice and help from very successful people.”