

REPRESENTATIVE FACULTY SENATE MEETING, FACULTY FORUM:
The Need to Reassess the Status Quo in College Athletics
Tuesday, January 28, 2025– 1:45 PM
In Person Meeting: Charles Library, Room 102

MINUTES

Attendance: Forty-two (42) representatives, faculty librarians and guests in attendance.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1: 55 (delayed due to technical difficulties) by Shohreh Amini who introduced the panelists.

2. Faculty Forum Panelists:

Dr. Dianne Langford, Professor of Neuroscience, Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine (formerly of Temple University). She has a long history of working with Temple athletic departments, medical schools, etc. Presentation on brain injuries and collision sport. DOD and NCAA established a research consortium in 2014. Football has more head impacts than other sports.

Dr. Dianne Langford, Professor of Neuroscience, Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine

Repeated impacts to the head are bad. However, one can't confirm CTE until you have an autopsy. Other factors also contribute to CTE like genetics, hydration, mental illness, cognitive disability and so on. Education about the risks is paramount. CTE shows protein markers like Parkinson's Disease.

Steve Newman, Associate Professor, College of Liberal Arts

Recent fiscal numbers – number of administrators compared to number of full-time faculty across the institution. Should we rethink how we allocate our resources? Selected expenses for Temple football (not including scholarships) are about \$11.5 million a year.

Mike Bognanno, Professor, College of Liberal Arts and Faculty Senate Vice President

College athletics economics – challenges on the road ahead include falling numbers of high school graduates and low levels of college readiness among high school graduates. Retention rates are falling. The enrollment landscape going forward is increasingly difficult. This necessitates being strategic with expenditures.

Three things have changed in college athletics: 1) transfer portal – allows athletes to transfer without sitting out a year; 2) NIL deals – allow payments from companies and booster collectives to athletes 3) direct payment to student athletes of up to \$22 million per institution starting the fall of 2025 in addition to scholarship aid. The cost of

participation in football is going up and the competitive balance is going down as top programs have an even greater recruiting advantage and can also poach talent from lesser programs through the transfer portal with the promise of greater compensation. Media revenues are hugely skewed towards the top conferences like the Big Ten.

Arthur Johnson, Temple University Athletics Director, addressed the group. Athletics is less than 2% of the cost of the entire institution. The value goes way beyond the numbers.

3. Approval of RFS minutes: November 19, 2024 - NOT APPROVED

4. Adjournment at 3:30 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Representative Faculty Senate, Monday, February 24, 2025,
Room 310 classroom, 1810 Liacouras Walk

Submitted by,

Robin Kolodny
Faculty Senate Secretary