Committee Members Present:
Javier Cervantes
Frank Dale
Jane Neufeld
John Planek
Hannah Rockwell
Brian Stanko, Chair
Pamela Staton, SAAC

1) Previous Meeting Minutes Approval.
   a) The Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Committee unanimously approved the April 10, 2008 meeting minutes.

2) Sports Program Update - John Planek.
   a) The fall has been another noteworthy season for Rambler athletics. Led by NCAA assists leader Cynthia Morote-Ariza, the Loyola women’s soccer team captured a share of the Horizon League regular-season title and will serve as the host of the 2008 Horizon League Championship, Nov. 2-9.
   b) On the pitch, the men have also had a successful year to date, posting a season-opening victory over then-No. 5 Santa Clara, while racking up an 8-4-2 record through games of Oct. 27.
   c) After an uncharacteristic season in 2007, the Rambler women’s volleyball program has rebounded to top form and possessed a 16-7 record through matches of Oct. 27, including a victory over city and League rival UIC on Oct. 25. Senior Armando Favela put together a remarkable fall season and earned medalist honors in each of Loyola’s last two meets, while also helping the team to the title at the IPFW Fall Classic.
   d) Loyola’s women’s golf team rallied to capture the team title at the NIU Huskie Classic in early October, and on eight occasions this season, either a men’s or women’s student-athlete has earned Horizon League Cross Country Athlete of the Week honors.
   e) On an unrelated note, the Athletic Committee discussed the issue of out-of-season travel. John’s recommendation to the Intercollegiate Athletic Advisory Board as it relates to outside competition during the non-traditional season is that a policy be adopted and approved that would require no classes be missed by the student...
athletes when competing. In addition that any travel to outside competition takes into consideration University resources and length of time that travel imposes on the student athlete.

i) Support for the proposal includes:
   (1) Missed class time. The academic pursuit of our student athletes is paramount. Any contest scheduled that conflicts with classes and labs during the non-traditional should not be participated in.
   (2) College Life Experience. The time commitments made upon student athletes during their traditional season impacts their ability to have a balanced/normal college life experience. The scheduling of additional contest conflicting with classes further erodes this experience.
   (3) Semester Opportunities. Many times students use the semester that they are not participating in intercollegiate athletics to take required classes, internships, labs or student teaching that can’t be placed into an athletic schedule. Student-athletes should be allowed to continue to have the option to schedule such classes during their non-traditional semester.

ii) Opposition to the proposal is simply competitive disadvantage. Other NCAA Division I institutions are currently allowed to schedule and participate in non-traditional competition in which their student athletes miss class. Additional opportunities could be viewed as increasing skill development.

iii) Both, Brian Stanko and Pam Staton will solicit comments from Horizon League FARs and Loyola University SAAC members to help better understand this issue as well as determine if other school sport teams are participating in out-of-season competitive events.

3) FAR Update – Brian Stanko
   a) Horizon League Fall FAR Meeting Update.
      i) Commissioner LeCrone highlighted issues affecting the industry that the League operates within as well as matters directly affecting the Horizon League. Key points included:
         (1) A rapidly changing environment with significant dollars at risk
         (2) A challenge to our ethical foundation
         (3) Division I membership standards
         (4) Balance between professionalism and amateurism
         (5) NCAA emphasis on academic reform, new contractual agreement with CBS, and student-athlete well-being
         (6) Economic risk for the League
      ii) Student-athlete Welfare Issue. Elizabeth Sorensen updated the FARs on her initiative to correct flaws in the NCAA bylaws. As a result of this initiative, a number of tools have been developed by her and two other colleagues to assist institutions in their quest to develop independent policies on student-athlete pregnancy. This includes the development of a model student athlete pregnancy policy, a student athlete handbook, as well as a power point presentation to assist respective schools during this developmental stage.
      iii) FAR Role with Athletics and Reporting Channels. FARs discussed campus initiatives to improve FAR relations with student-athletes as well as reporting channels with the senior administration. Campus initiatives included:
(1) Meetings with SAAC Presidents
(2) Presentations to student-athlete groups
(3) Regular office hours for advising
(4) Traveling with teams to sporting events
(5) E-mail correspondence with student-athletes for introductions, sharing of FAR responsibility, and consultation/advising
(6) All FARs reported directly to either a University President/Chancellor or a Vice-President of Student Affairs.

iv) Scholar-Athlete of the Week Program. The FARs discussed the pros and cons associated with the current Scholar Athlete of the Week program and agreed that the program needed modification. As a result of the discussion, the FARs agreed to present the award less frequently (monthly) beginning AY 2009-10. This will make for a larger pool of candidates and enhance the significance of the award to the recipient. The Scholar Athlete of the Week program will continue in its present form for the balance of the 2008-09 AY. The FARs did request that some additional time be available to better review the quality of the award candidates.

v) Service on League/NCAA Committees. Alfreeda Goff emphasized the importance of FARs serving on League and/or NCAA committees. NCAA committee meetings are typically in-person or conducted via teleconference.

b) APR Report. Brian provided the Committee with Loyola University Chicago’s Division 1 2006-07 Academic Progress Rate Public Report. The APR is a metric established by the NCAA to measure the success or failure of collegiate athletic teams in moving student-athletes towards graduation and was instituted in February of 2005. A perfect score is 1000. In 2006-07, all sport teams compiled a score of 955 or better with five teams receiving the Public Recognition Award (90th percentile). Additional materials were provided to the group that emphasize the increase in the APR over the past 4 years and the number of schools that will receive immediate penalties and/or public warnings.

c) Graduation Success Rate Report. Brian provided the Committee with Loyola University Chicago’s Graduation Success Rate Report. The report is designed to show the proportion of athletes that achieve what the NCAA perceives as the student-athlete’s ultimate goal: earning a degree. The NCAA Graduation Success Rate (GSR) and the Academic Success Rate (ASR) were developed in response to college and university presidents who wanted graduation data that more accurately reflect the mobility among college students today. Both rates improve on the federally mandated graduation rate by including students who were omitted from the federal calculation. The GSR measures graduation rates at Division I institutions and includes students transferring into the institutions. The GSR also allows institutions to subtract student-athletes who leave their institutions prior to graduation as long as they would have been academically eligible to compete had they remained. John Planek also noted that Loyola has an 89% student-athlete graduation rate when one considers those Loyola student-athletes that have exhausted their eligibility.

4) SAAC Update – Pam Staton.
a) Pam Staton discussed her attendance at the National SAAC meeting held in Orlando, Fl. She indicated that on May 27th she was introduced to approximately 349 student athletes from different schools, divisions, sports, and backgrounds. We were thrown into conference rooms with varying opinions, issues, ideas and values. On May 29th she left with 349 friends that all shared and contributed to an experience that will be remembered for a lifetime. At the conference, issues were discussed that provided her with the opportunity to enhance her leadership, communication, decision-making and problem-solving skills. The National Student-Athlete Development Conference also promoted better communication among student-athletes, coaches, administrators, faculty and communities. The conference consisted of daily color team sessions, exercises, speakers and activities to help us student-athletes develop as individuals and as contributing members to society. The conference promoted a positive student-athlete image.

b) Pam also identified some possible new programs such as offering students points for attending games (different points depending on the sport). At the end of each semester students can use their points to get under armor gear that is our school colors- things like t-shirts, hats, backpacks, and sweatshirts. There is a grand prize given at the end of the year for the student/s who has earned the most points.

c) Upcoming SAAC events include:
   i) Thanksgiving Food Drive (Nov. 17-21, 2008)
   ii) Clothing Drive (Dec. 1-5, 2008)
   iii) Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 17, 2009)
   iv) Old Equipment Drive (March 17-20, 2009)

d) The SAAC website has been updated and provides new member information and photos regarding past events, ongoing events and future activities planned by the organization. The website can be accessed through the Loyola Athletics Website.

5) Student-Athlete Advisory Update – Phyllis Williams.
   a) Phyllis indicated that academically the student athletes did well again in spring 2008. The average semester GPA for all athletes for spring 2008 was 3.28 & the average cum GPA was 3.19. Both of these GPA's were all time highs. We have the most number of athletes ever this fall - 225 right now which is 15 more than last fall.

6) Future Meeting Date.
   a) The Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Committee plans to hold its next meeting in late January or early February.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10pm