Athletic Committee Motion

The Motion
To adopt the following changes to section 1.4.3.4.5 of the Faculty Handbook so that the Athletic Committee is better able to serve the needs of the college.

The Rationale
The motion is brought to the faculty by the Provost, who provides the following explanation.

This proposal comes as part of an effort to reinvigorate the faculty’s Athletic Committee, which has met only intermittently during the last several years. Prepared by the Provost, Athletic Director and current Athletic Committee, the proposal strives to update the committee’s responsibilities, prune some outdated duties, and strengthen the role of the committee as a liaison between the academic and athletic programs. Below is a quick summary of the major changes.

First, the proposal eliminates some responsibilities that now seem best left to the athletic staff, and yet it continues to identify places where the committee can play an advisory role. Many of the duties in the current handbook were developed during an era when Kinesiology (formerly Physical Education) was more engaged with the administration of the athletic program. So we’ve trimmed committee duties that no longer seem relevant.

Second, we want the committee to establish guidelines related to schedules, eligibility standards, postseason travel, etc. The committee would do its best to balance the priorities of the academic program, the goals of the athletic teams, and the distinct requirements of the Golden State Athletic Conference and the NAIA. The committee would play a critical role in reviewing athletic policy, reporting to the faculty, and hearing faculty concerns. It can also help educate faculty about some of the specific obligations and conditions that the athletic programs must heed. Faculty with concerns could raise them with the committee, and not deal independently and directly with a coach or athlete. With these goals in mind, we propose that the chair of the committee be the “Faculty Athletic Representative” (a mandatory post assigned by the President) rather than the Athletic Director.

Finally, we want the committee to help assess the college’s strategies for compliance with Title IX and to advise the administration about any plans for adding or eliminating particular sports. In that respect, we have included the “Senior Woman Administrator” (a formal role stipulated by the NCAA and adopted by many NAIA schools) on the committee.

Current Handbook Language

1.4.3.4.5 Athletic Committee

a) Membership:
   1) Provost (or representative)
   2) Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students (or representative)
   3) Faculty Athletic Representative
   4) Athletic Director
5) Women’s Athletic Coordinator
6) Chair of Kinesiology Department
7) Two faculty members, one elected annually to a two-year term
8) One student appointed by W.C.S.A.

b) Officers:

The Athletic Director will serve as chair; the chair shall appoint the secretary. The Faculty Athletic Representative must have faculty status.

c) Responsibilities:

1) To establish guidelines regarding scheduling (e.g., length of season, number of games, amount of practice time). The chair shall oversee implementation of these guidelines for each season of play; the committee must approve any exceptions to these guidelines.
2) To advise the Athletic Director and Provost concerning participation in post-season tournaments.
3) To establish and periodically to review eligibility regulations for Westmont athletes with respect to those set forth by any conferences and national affiliations to which Westmont may belong. The Faculty Athletic Representative shall monitor the athletic eligibility of individual students.
4) To evaluate existing intercollegiate athletic programs and to recommend additions or deletions of same to the Provost.
5) To determine membership in athletic associations and in athletic conferences upon recommendation of the Athletic Director and the Provost.
6) To advise when necessary the Athletic Director in the preparation of budget requests.
7) To review reports presented by the Faculty Athletic Representative and the Athletic Director on academic progress of student athletes. These reports normally would be presented in early fall.
8) To assist in the recruitment and hiring of any full-time coaching staff.

Proposed Handbook Language (additions in bold, deletions struck through)

1.4.3.4.5 Athletic Committee

a) Membership:

1) Provost (or representative)

2) Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students (or representative)

3) Faculty Athletic Representative, who is appointed by the President and must have faculty status

4) Athletic Director

5) Women’s Athletic Coordinator Senior Woman Administrator

6) Chair of Kinesiology Department

7) Two faculty members, one elected annually to a two-year term

8) One student appointed by W.C.S.A.
b) Officers: The **Athletic Director** and **Faculty Athletic Representative** will serve as chair; the chair shall appoint the secretary. The Faculty Athletic Representative must have faculty status.


c) Responsibilities:

1) To serve as a liaison between the academic and athletic programs, hearing faculty questions and concerns, identifying issues needing to be addressed, and enhancing communication.

2) To provide an annual report (and, if needed, other periodic reports) to the faculty about the athletic program (including information on graduation rates and GPAs for athletes, changes in conference policy and procedures, and other items of relevance to the academic program).

3) To establish review guidelines regarding scheduling (e.g., length of season, number of games, amount of practice time, policies on class attendance and make-ups, postseason participation). The chair **Athletic Director** shall oversee implementation of these guidelines for each season of play; the committee must approve any exceptions to these guidelines.

4) To advise the Athletic Director and Provost concerning participation in post-season tournaments.

5) To establish and periodically to review eligibility regulations for Westmont athletes with respect to those set forth by any conferences and national affiliations to which Westmont may belong. To review reports presented by the Faculty Athletic Representative and the Athletic Director on academic progress of student athletes. These reports normally would be presented in early fall. The Faculty Athletic Representative shall monitor the athletic eligibility of individual students.

6) To review proposals for conference and national affiliations or for the addition and deletion of athletic programs. To make recommendations on these matters to the Provost. Evaluate existing intercollegiate athletic programs and to recommend additions or deletions of same to the Provost.

7) To review plans for the college’s compliance with Title IX mandates and to make recommendations for ensuring gender equity.

8) To determine membership in athletic associations and in athletic conferences upon recommendation of the Athletic Director and the Provost.

9) To advise when necessary the Athletic Director in the preparation of budget requests.

10) To review reports presented by the Faculty Athletic Representative and the Athletic Director on academic progress of student athletes. These reports normally would be presented in early fall.

11) To assist in the recruitment and hiring of any full-time coaching staff.