

## **Committee on Athletics Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 21, 2024 Meeting #4 – In-Person/Zoom**

**Present:** Chris Karadjov, Arlene Walter, Andre Achacon, Madeleine Liseblad, Bobby Smitheran, Sandra Shirley, Milton Ordonez, Damian Zavala, Nick MacRae, Kurt Escobar, Terry Robertson, Kevin Valenzuela, Khue Duong, Larissa Santos, Maureen Torrez, Michael Solt, and Kimberly Farrell

1. **Call to Order** at 3:01 p.m.
2. **Meeting agenda approved.**
3. **Approval of minutes** from November 15: Minutes approved.
4. **Report from Nick McRae, Associate Head Coach, Men's Volleyball**  
Nick McRae introduced himself. He is a CSULB graduate, and it is his 12<sup>th</sup> year as a coach here.

The men's volleyball team is currently ranked #1 in the country. The Big West conference will take place in April and we're hosting the national championships the first week of May.

Chris Karadjov asked how the campus community can bond with athletes and get to know them better. Nick McRae said in the fall they do a lot of check-ins to connect with people. Bobby Smitheran said fall is best, not too intrusive on their season.

Chris Karadjov asked how the campus community can bond with athletes a

a good contract. Bobby also mentioned the Hall of Fame inductions. Arlene Walter commented how tight connection between coach and athlete is, even after years apart.

Athletics is currently engaged in two larger projects, utilizing two companies. They are looking at creating collateral for fundraising purposes. This includes mapping out a future vision for the athletic department. In addition, they are doing a study on renovating Blair Field, paying close attention to the facility's charm; we don't want to lose the charm, but need to enhance and bring it up to date. Athletics is also waiting for input on how to reconstruct some of the Pyramid to fix leaks. The timeline for these projects varies.

Athletics is looking at revenue generating events. For example, the Area Code Baseball Games are back. Over 200 prep baseball players will descent on Long Beach. It's a good economic drive for the city and a good recruiting tool for the school.

Athletics had their first-ever student-athlete leadership council. Athletes with diverse

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