Meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm.


I. The minutes for the February 24, 2011 NCAA Steering Committee Meeting were approved as submitted.

II. Dr. Rosa Jones thanked everyone and indicated that the Open Forums held on March 23 and 24 were well attended. Participants were engaged and the dialogue was productive. Dr. Jones also noted that the presentations by the chairs were excellent and provided compelling overviews and explanations of each of the operating principles/sections.

A. At the Modesto A. Maidique Campus (MMC) forum, two of the biggest items of discussion centered on Title IX. Representatives from the University’s Gender Equity Committee raised questions regarding gender equity. Ms. Julie Berg responded to these questions and concerns and described our plans for continuing to meet Title IX requirements as set for in our plans for improvement. Moreover, she provided the time frames for these improvements.

B. At the Biscayne Bay Campus (BBC) a question was raised regarding how much information we know about our student-athletes after they graduate. Feedback stressed the need to implement a better method to track student-athletes after graduation.

C. The forums provided an opportunity for faculty, students, and staff to provide feedback to the Self-Study Committee members.

D. In addition the Self-Study process and report was briefly presented at the Faculty Senate by Dr. Jones at its meeting on 3/29/11.

III. Dr. Jones asked the Steering Committee if there were any comments or feedback regarding the process and the study.

A. Trustee Jorge Arrizurieta thanked everyone for his/her diligent work and indicated that he thought the process had been comprehensive. Trustee Arrizurieta expressed his belief that the report and self-study process are important to take FIU and Athletics to the next level.
IV. Dr. Himburg informed everyone that the last conference call with Mr. Matt Maher, FIU’s NCAA liaison, was very helpful and that he provided feedback on the 15 program areas and plans for improvement.

Based on his feedback, more details have been added to the document.

V. Dr. Jones asked the committee for a motion to approve the self-study in order to be able to submit it to the President. Dr. Robertson moved and Dr. Fain seconded the motion involving the approval by the Steering Committee of the NCAA Athletics Certification Self-Study and Plans for Improvement and that effective April 1, 2011, the document and plans be submitted to the President for final approval.

A. The motion was unanimously approved.
B. Dr. Jones indicated that the new student-athletes’ travel policy would be presented to the Operations Committee for approval on Monday, April 4, 2011.

VI. Dr. Elizabeth Bejar thanked everyone for all their revisions. She provided an update on the next steps in the process:

A. The next step is to enter the report into the NCAA website by April 15, 2011.
B. FIU is expected to receive feedback in June 2011 from a small working group if any clarification is needed on the report.
C. FIU will have an opportunity to respond by mid-August 2011.
D. A site visit will take place the first week of October 2011.

VII. President Mark B. Rosenberg joined the meeting and went around the room and asked the Steering Committee to provide their personal feedback on the report and what members believe he should know about the report.

A. Dr. Steven Fain explained he was very impressed on how it has been written. The report appears to have been written by one person. In addition he learned a lot and found the report a helpful resource.
B. Pete Garcia commented that the report was very thorough and demonstrated the strong professionalism of its contributors. He noted that everyone had taken the initiative very seriously and had made excellent contributions. He thought that other universities could possibly not be taking this process as seriously.
C. Dr. DeFrancesco explained that this report would impact the University financially.
D. Dr. Robertson indicated that the report helped the university community realize that we are not where we stood 10 years ago. The accreditation and assessment culture has changed for the better.
E. Dr. Jones confirmed that there are now monitoring systems in place that were not evident in the past.
F. Ms. Kristina Raattama recommended that particular attention be paid in the academic portions of the report and the gender equity section of the report as
those are the areas where decisions were made by the committee on would require action.

G. Ms. Helena Ramirez, SGA President, MMC, indicated that what had surprised her about the process was that the committee went beyond some areas and made recommendations and instituted policies as a consequence of the review.

H. Ms. Christin Battle, SGA President, BBC, explain she was very impressed by the entire process. She was surprised at how well everyone came together to address issues and develop plans for improvement. She said she felt that the Steering Committee did a very good job.

I. Leyda Benitez expressed that she was pleased with the level of engagement by the subcommittees (with members ranging from students to faculty) and the subcommittees' commitment to the process. She wanted to ensure everyone that there would be an on-going monitoring of the plans for improvement.

VIII. The President thanked everyone for his/her hard work and effort. He anticipates that in 10 years from now FIU would be in the position to see all of the results of this process. He again thanked everyone who worked so diligently to ensure the implementation of a solid process.

IX. Dr. Jones thanked everyone for his/her hard work and effort.

X. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.