Chair Scott Unruh called the meeting was called to order at 2:00m. Members in attendance were Aaron Estes, Jon McBride, Bob Rycek, Laure Smith, Janet Steele, Jane Strawhecker, and Nita Unruh. We could have approved the minutes of the last meeting if Scott had remember to send them to the entire committee, so Janet said she would sending the minutes to all members of the committee herself. The only item Scott wanted to review was NCAA graduation rates. Laure said that the NCAA has not released any new graduation rates but it is her understanding that transfer students will no longer count “against” universities.

Scott said that he has been thinking about what the purpose of our committee is, and his interpretation is that our role is to see that athletics fit into the overall mission of UNK as well to oversee the athletic program and hold it accountable. With accountability and assessment in mind, Scott next asked the committee to look at the NCAA GOALS (Growth, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Learning of Students in college) survey that he had (perhaps illegally?) copied. The volleyball and baseball teams completed this survey this year for the NCAA. Scott asked Bob if the UNK IRB should have been informed that some of our student-athletes were participating in this study, and Bob said the UNK IRB should have a copy of the survey and a courtesy letter on file. The committee thought there were several questions in the GOALS survey that could be modified to fit into our survey that could help the athletics program fit into UNK-wide assessment. Scott said questions about getting course credit for participation in athletics was raised at the Faculty Athletic Representative Association meeting. On our campus student-athletes can get 1 credit hour per year for participation in athletics.

Scott asked Laure and Aaron how the compliance manual and exit interview were progressing. Laure said Aaron just finished the last portion of the compliance manual and she will get copies to all committee members before our next meeting. Aaron said no progress has been made on the exit interview. He has been concerned about it length, but said it isn’t as long as the NCAA GOALS survey. A question was raised about how to handle red-shirt seasons and whether or not students should be classified as freshmen (dependent on credits earned) or first-year students. Aaron said a question about years of participation in program could be added to accommodate red-shirt seasons. The committee members agreed to have an operable version of the survey by the end of this academic year.

Scott next mentioned some more topics that were brought up at the FARA meeting. He asked if our campus has a way to identify “at risk” student-athletes. Currently there is no formal process and coaches are encouraged to keep track of their own student-athletes. Priority enrollment for athletes is permitted on some campuses, but that does not seem to be something our student-athletes need here. Laure said we are either compliant with title XI issues or moving toward compliance, both of which are acceptable to the NCAA. Jon said that we might add women’s soccer, which would bring the number of female student-athletes closer to the number of male student-athletes. Scott asked if he should receive notification of violations prior to our campus notifying the NCAA, and Laure said she would send him copies should any violation
arise. Finally, Scott said that the Chancellor’s and President’s Council may have money for automatic external defibrillators and thought it would be good if the Health and Sports Center had more than one. In addition, he thought it would be good if a plan were in place concerning notification of athletic trainers and physicians if a member of the crowd suffers a cardiac event during an athletic event.

Finally, Scott said that he thought it would be a good gesture to honor Bruce Elder for his years of service as Faculty Athletic Representative. The committee agreed only if he could also be symbolically tossed out of the game by one of the referees.

Scott asked if anyone had any other items for discussion before adjournment. Laure asked if anyone on the committee were familiar with a web site called “facebook.com.” She said this site displays personal information (which the individual enters himself or herself) that others can access. She has recently been informed that athletes have been approached by coaches on this web site. Bob said he has also heard of this site and thought class schedules were also available (somehow). Aaron and Nita said they know people waste hours on this site. Laure said she just wanted our committee to be aware of these potentials problems.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 13 at 10:15 am.