Duties of the UW Faculty Athletics Representative

This position has historically been structured as a .25 FTE administrative appointment supported by the President’s Office. Candidates should be tenured and prepared to serve at least three years. The term is renewable. A different compensation structure may be available upon consultation with the President’s Office.

- Serve as the President’s “eyes and ears in Athletics” as described by the best practices of FARA (Faculty Athletics Representatives Association) and the Board of the D1 FARs (Division 1 Faculty Athletics Representatives). This involves regular consultation with the President regarding Athletics policies.

- Serve as official liaison from the faculty to Athletics, and from Athletics to the faculty. This includes giving annual reports to the Board of Trustees and Faculty Senate about Athletics and meeting with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, ASUW, and other campus governance groups as requested. More importantly, this involves consultations with many individual instructors about many individual student-athletes.

- Provide oversight for rules compliance, academic services, fiscal policy, and student-athlete well-being through the Athletics Planning Committee (APC) and extensive consultation with the Athletics Director and senior staff. The FAR chairs the APC which meets at least four times a year.

- Analyze and consult with Athletics staff about all NCAA violations.

- Examine and sign recertification status forms for each UW athlete each academic term. These forms track eligibility, Progress Toward Degree, declared majors, GPA, and more.

- Examine Probation/Suspension data regarding student-athletes each academic term.

- Serve on the Joint Council of the Mountain West Conference as one of UW’s official representatives to the conference. This involves discussion of all conference policies and, as a member of the MWC FARs, resolution of medical hardship waivers, discussion of pending NCAA legislation, resolution of intra-conference waivers, development of academic “best practices,” etc. The MWC FARS meet once a month. The Joint Council meets 4-6 times a year. Face-to-face meetings typically occur in October and May.

- Ensure student-athletes are treated the same as non-student-athletes. This includes making sure colleges and departments follow written policies concerning excused absences, make-up exams/assignments, academic dishonesty charges, etc.
• Work with the Director of Financial Aid and student-athletes during appeals of reduction/cancellation of Athletics scholarships.

• Proctor the annual NCAA recruiting exam for all coaches and recruiting-related staff. The exam is typically offered four times in May and June.

• Develop relationships with student-athletes via the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), the Mountain West SAAC, occasional travel with teams, visits to practices, attendance at games and competitions.

• Provide student-athletes with an “outside” source of consultation and, sometimes, comfort. This entails strong working relationships with the Director of Sports Medicine and the Director of Student-Athlete Well-Being. UW’s FAR serves on the university’s Sexual Assault and Violence Prevention task force and the Mental Health and Well-Being Committee in Athletics.

• Nominate UW student-athletes for university, conference, regional, and national scholarships/awards. This includes participation on the Scholarship Committee in Athletics.

• Conduct exit interviews with some graduating student-athletes. Examine the results of the annual all-student-athlete survey in order to improve Athletics policies and procedures for student-athletes.

• Examine Change of Status (COS) forms completed by student-athletes who choose to leave their teams.

• Serve on hiring committees for coaches, Athletics staff, and academic coordinators.

• Consult with Athletics staff on UW’s votes on MWC and NCAA legislation.

• Attend UW athletic events when possible.

Note: The President’s Office reimburses the FAR for necessary travel to Mountain West Conference and NCAA meetings. Athletics provides the FAR with an All-Access pass to UW events. The FAR is an “official travel party member” to bowl games and NCAA tournament appearances in men’s and women’s basketball. There is no staff support for the position. It involves being “on call” 365 days of the year. The contact with high-performing students, coaches, and staff is gratifying. The responsibilities vary from week to week. The work is constant, but never dull.