Report for the Tufts Athletic Committee

Over the last academic year, the Athletic committee had 4 meetings, during which time we rewrote the bylaws and goals of the committee (fully documented at https://sites.google.com/site/tuftsathleticscommittee/). After much discussion, we decided that the bylaws did not reflect well what the committee had been doing for the past few years. We thought it should be made clear that the committee was one that responded to issues arising between athletics and academics, and that if no issues arose, it would not meet.

At the end of this year, a sub-committee started brainstorming on ways to improve student spirit at Tufts and increase the audience at games. This will hopefully be the primary thrust for the committee next academic year. The results of a previous study done by an undergraduate student showed that with the exception of football, attendance to sporting events averaged between 3-5% of the student body (football averaged around 30%). This is lower than all of our competitor schools (between 6% and 40%). Roughly 80% of undergraduates had attended at least one athletic event, with about 40% hearing about them by word of mouth (Facebook was the second largest source of information at 24%). Almost half attended as a result of a friend on the team (with team success and time of competition being the next two reasons).

Sincerely,

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