The Athletics Committee met once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester. This was a year of transition for us, insofar as we have a new Athletics Director, John Morris, and because last year the AS&E faculty authorized a change in the reporting structure whereby the Athletics Department now reports directly to the Provost (rather than the Deans of Arts and Sciences and Engineering).

At the fall meeting, the committee discussed and formulated a proposal to make some changes in the committee membership. First, at the request of the Provost, we agreed to add one or two faculty members from schools other than Arts and Sciences and Engineering. Second, we decided to add two undergraduate members of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (in addition to the two undergraduate members currently chosen by the TCU Senate). However, when we proposed a bylaw change to the Executive Committee, they had reservations about having faculty from other schools sitting on an Arts, Sciences and Engineering committee, and we have, for the time being, tabled this proposal. Nevertheless, we welcomed the participation of representatives from the Student Athlete Advisory Committee at both our meetings this year.

We also chose one of the co-chairs, Mary Glaser, to be the faculty representative to the National Collegiate Athletics Association. Mary attended the annual NCAA convention in San Antonio, Texas and reported back to us on a number of interesting developments.

At the spring meeting, we were largely concerned with creation of and support for the Tufts Athletics Faculty Liaison program. This proposal was first made to us in the previous year by the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. The goal is to create a better flow of information between faculty and student athletes by having a member of the faculty directly connected to a given varsity team. The faculty member can serve as a mentor to team members, provide information and advice, and guide student athletes if and when they run into challenges and conflicts between academics and athletics. At the same time, this may also help the faculty to better understand the culture of athletics on our campus. Similar programs have proven successful at other academic institutions. This past spring semester saw the operation of a pilot program involving several varsity teams. It is the committee's intention to report to the AS&E faculty next year on the results of the pilot program and to get the faculty's feedback on expanding this program to as many teams as possible. This also led to a discussion of existing and potential mechanisms for dealing with situations where, for example, athletes have a conflict between exams and participation in off-campus matches and tournaments.
Submitted on behalf of the Athletics Committee,

Steven Hirsch/Classics, co-chair  Mary Glaser/Mathematics, co-chair