ATHLETIC COUNCIL

ARTICLE I

Name
The name of this organization shall be The Athletic Council of the University of Southern Mississippi (hereafter referred to as the Council).

ARTICLE II

Purposes and Responsibilities
The general purpose of the council shall be to review and provide advice to the President and Athletic Director on broad policy issues relating to intercollegiate athletics. The specific responsibilities of the Council shall be to review and provide advice in the following areas of the University’s athletic program:

A. General Policies
B. Philosophy, Goals, and Objectives
C. Sports Programming
D. Services for student-Athletes
E. Marketing and Fund-Raising
F. Public Relations and Sports Information
G. Other areas as requested by the Athletic Director or President

Matters pertaining to budgeting, personnel, and day-to-day operations of the Athletic Department are excluded from the responsibilities of the Council unless specifically requested by the Athletic Director or the President. The regular, voting faculty members of the Council shall comprise a committee to hear eligibility appeals of student-athletes.

ARTICLE III

Membership
The Council shall be comprised of eleven (11) regular voting members and eight (8) ex officio non-voting members as shown below:

Section 1. Regular Voting Members
Of the eleven regular voting members, five shall be full-time faculty/administrators representing the respective colleges of the university. The members will be recommended by the Faculty Athletic Representative and approved by the Dean of the respective College; and four shall be representatives of the community as appointed by the Faculty Athletic Representative; one shall be a representative of the faculty senate; and one shall be the Faculty Athletic Representative, who shall serve as chair of the committee. Understanding the importance of diversity in membership, the Faculty Athletics Representative will ensure a diverse selection of representatives to the Council.
Section 2. Ex Officio Non-Voting Members
Eight persons shall serve as ex officio non-voting members as shown below:

1. The President or someone appointed by the President
2. The Athletic Director
3. A representative of the Student Government Association
4. A representative of the Eagle Club
5. A representative of the Alumni Association
6. A representative of the “M” Club
7. A representative of the Athletic Foundation
8. A representative of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee

Section 3. Length of Membership
- Regular Voting Members. The Faculty Athletics Representative shall be a voting member. *The other ten voting members shall be appointed for three-year staggered terms beginning on July 1.*
- Ex Officio Members. The President or someone designated by the President shall serve at the will of the President. The Athletic Director shall serve by virtue of the position with the University and shall remain on the Council as long as he or she fills the designated position. The representatives of the Student Government Association, Eagle Club, Alumni Association, M Club, Athletic Foundation, and Student Athlete Advisory Committee shall serve at the will of the organization.
- *Term Limits.* No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms on the Council.
- *Removal for Cause.* Committee members who fail to attend meetings or to actively engage in the business of the committee may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the remaining members.

ARTICLE IV
Officers
The Chair of the Council shall be the Faculty Athletics Representative. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Council, appoint all committees, prepare meeting agendas, cause all notices and agendas of regular meetings to be mailed at least five days in advance, call special meetings when needed, serve as an ex officio member of each committee, provide general leadership for the Council and do all other things that are necessary for the effectiveness of such a Council.

At the first regular meeting each year, the Council shall elect a Vice-Chair/Secretary from among the faculty members of the Council. This officer shall take notes and keep minutes of all Council meetings and shall preside in the absence of the Chair.

ARTICLE V
Business Year
The business year of the Council shall coincide with the fiscal year of the University. Currently the fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on July 30.
ARTICLE VI
Meetings

Section 1. Regular Meetings
The regular meetings of the Council shall meet two times during each half of the business year. For meeting purposes, the first half of the year is defined as July-December and the second half as January-June. The Chair shall determine the times and dates of the meetings. All regular meetings shall be agenda meetings with copies of the agendas provided the membership at least five days prior to the meetings.

Section 2. Called Meetings
The Chair may call special meetings when deemed appropriate by the Chair or when requested by the President or Athletic Director.

Section 3. Quorum. Six voting members shall constitute a quorum for voting purposes.

Section 4. Proxy Votes. Proxy votes or substitute members shall not be permitted.

Section 5. Record Keeping. All Minutes of approved and specially called Athletic Council meetings, shall be sent to the University President, and will be posted on the Athletic Dept. website within 30 days of a committee meeting. Membership lists and meeting minutes will be made available to the public as specified by Mississippi’s Open Meetings Act, for a minimum of five years.

Section 6. Annual Report. An annual report will be submitted to the administrator that oversees the Athletic Council at the end of the academic year. The annual report will provide a brief overview of the Council’s activities for the past year.

ARTICLE VII
Committees

From time to time, as circumstances warrant, the Chair may appoint ad hoc committees to facilitate the work of the Council. Membership of such committees may include persons who are not members of the Council.

ARTICLE VIII
Parliamentary Authority

These rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Athletic Council in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Council may adopt.

ARTICLE IX
Amendment of Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Council by a two-thirds vote, provided the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting.

Revised May 2011