

Georgia Southern University

Digital Commons@Georgia Southern

---

Faculty Senate Index

Faculty Senate

---

10-30-2012

## Athletic Program's Support for Academic Mission of the University

Michelle Haberland

*Georgia Southern University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/faculty-senate-index>



Part of the [Higher Education Administration Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Haberland, Michelle, "Athletic Program's Support for Academic Mission of the University" (2012). *Faculty Senate Index*. 86.

<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/faculty-senate-index/86>

This discussion item request is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Senate Index by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu).

# Athletic Program's Support for Academic Mission of the University

Submitted by: Michelle Haberland

10/30/2012

## Discussion:

---

I respectfully request that the Faculty Senate, President Keel and other members of the university community discuss the possibility of formalizing the "front porch" relationship between the Athletics Program and the academic mission of the university. Specifically, could the university commit to allocating at a percentage of the Athletics Program's resources for the support of the academic mission of the University by contributing those funds to Academic Affairs?

## Rationale:

---

Since his arrival at Georgia Southern University, President Keel has noted that "Athletics provides what I call the front porch of the University. It gets people to look in through the window and see what the inside of the University looks like. And it does it in a way that nothing else you do can do for you." [1] The connection between the athletics and academics sides of the university is clear in President Keel's Front Porch metaphor.

This discussion seeks to find ways that would make that connection permanent and tangible and commit the university to the simultaneous development of athletics and academics at Georgia Southern University.

Many of the successful university athletic programs, like those at Notre Dame, University of Southern California and The University of Florida, just to name a few, have made these kinds of financial commitments to the academic side of their Universities.

Georgia Southern could exist without a football team; but the football team could not exist without the university.

---

--

[1] "On An Even Keel: Brooks A. Keel Assumes the Presidency at Georgia Southern University," Georgia Southern Online Magazine (Spring 2010).  
<http://news.georgiasouthern.edu/gsm/index.php?type=Features&article=onanevenkeel&sn=featured> Accessed Oct. 30, 2012.

## **Senate Response:**

---

11/27/2012 Discussion: Athletic Program's Support for Academic Mission of the University

President Keel had asked faculty NCAA representative Chris Geyerman (CLASS) to respond to the possibility of some portion of our athletic program's revenues being given to Academic Affairs. Geyerman noted that out of an athletic budget of about \$11 million, more than \$3 million already goes for scholarships that pay tuition and fees, a large part of which goes to Academic Affairs. He also noted that at year's end the athletics balance is zero.