This year serving as the Athletic Fee Accountability Committee Chairperson was very interesting. I have learned so many things about the position and feel that I am in a good position moving forward for the next two years I will serve in this position.

To begin, there really was not that much information given to me from the previous chair and I had to sort of make up the rules as I went. That will never happen ever again as I have already begun my letter to the next chairs with all of the issues that I had encountered just in the first three weeks in the position and will continue to update and make that letter better reflect the position as I continue to learn more about it.

There are for sure ways that things need to be done in the future and I am working very hard to make sure that our constitution and standing rules reflect that. This will probably end up being an ongoing process for my next two years in the position seeing as things are always changing and we will always be encountering difficulties.

I want to make sure that the Student Association in addition to anyone else that has to deal with the future of the athletic fee understands the fee from a legal standpoint as that is something that I learned a lot more about in my experiences this past year. The athletic fee and the literature that still stands on it states specifically that the fee is to be use for the maintenance and facilities if intercollegiate sports. This means that the purpose of the fee is meant to go towards the structures and facilities used by intercollegiate athletics. Varsity sports that are school sanctioned are really the only thing that our athletic fee currently covers. I believe that this is important to keep in mind seeing as that was not something that was outlined for me nor did any of the members of my committee that have been serving for multiple years know about this.

The way that the student association addresses the new chairs also may be the source of some frustration. When I was appointed to my position I was interrogated for quite some time about how I would ensure that this fee would not just benefit athletes and how I would stay accountable to the student body as a whole. The whole student association was under the impression that this fee would be used for a different purpose than what it is really meant for.

I also believe that in the future I will need to work more closely with Jerry Wollmering and make sure that all of the projects that are being funded will actually be able to be completed. I know in the past that it has been difficult to get projects done in a timely manner. I believe that a solution to this problem will be changing the process a little bit to move the deadline for proposal submissions up so we will be able to do more work more efficiently earlier on and be able to complete projects in that school year.

Next year, I also want to have specific outlined tasks for each member of my committee seeing as there really weren’t to many to go off of this year. This will mainly be for the varsity representatives. I will divide up all of the varsity sports and have the varsity representatives meet with the coaches of these sports to hear their ideas and proposals. I want to have these representatives have as much understanding of the projects as the coaches proposing them. This will ensure that discussion and voting will go much smoother and there will be fewer questions up in the air about what each proposal really means.

On the topic of proposals, I want to revise the way that we currently accept proposals. I want to have a specific proposal form that will be available on the Student Government website or directly from me upon request. This will require much more thought and coordination from the people proposing the ideas as to make it easier on the committee itself. There will be questions about other sources of funding, what form of intercollegiate athletics it would be helping and many other things to make sure that we are getting real thought out proposals. It is important that proposals are still open for anyone, student, athlete, or coach, but I want to make sure that there is still a legitimate proposal behind them instead of wasting the committee's time.

With our constitution and standing rules, I want to make sure that it is outlined what we do and do not fund. I know that a lot of club sports applied to us for funding for tournament costs and other travel expenses and I want to make sure that future committees know that these types of requests do not fall within our jurisdiction. There are other ways for them to get funding such as FAC.

I also want to do something about the long term project clause. I know that when it was made it had good intentions, but in my experience it just makes getting real things done much more difficult. I want to change that for the future. I don’t know exactly how just yet, but I do feel that if we were not constrained by this clause the current track and turf project could have been completed with two to three year worth of the fees money in addition to a few smaller projects instead of six years worth of the fees money and many unnecessary smaller projects seeing as the money outside of the long term project is not enough to get other big necessary things done.

Overall, this was a very big learning experience and I know that next year with an almost completely new team of people on my committee, a new student government representative, student at large, club and intramural sports representative, and student body president, it may be even tougher. There are many things that I set my sights on achieving and changing this next year and I feel better prepared for this position to better make a difference.