

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

University Standing Committee: Council on Athletics

Academic Year Covered by Report: 2014-15

Date Report Submitted: May 29, 2015

Report Submitted by: Roby B. Sawyers, Chair

Number of times committee met: Six - 8/22/14, 9/26/14, 11/21/14, 1/23/15, 2/20/15 and 4/24/15)

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

At the urging of Debbie Yow, Director of Athletics, the Council on Athletics (Council) recommends that the committee structure of the Council be reviewed for possible changes so that the Council can more directly study, address and make recommendations concerning important issues affecting intercollegiate athletics. In conjunction with the AD and other interested parties, the Council will begin its review of the current structure and make specific recommendations next fall.

## **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEE**

Council Charge: Chancellor Randy Woodson met with the Council at its first meeting on August 28, 2014 and reaffirmed the group's critical role as an advisory board on athletics matters. He stated that the work of the council is important, ensuring that athletics remains an integral part of the university and operates with integrity. He praised the senior management team in place.

Head Coach Guests: During the academic year, the following coaches met with the Council and provided reports on their teams: Mark Stevenson (gymnastics), Richard Sykes (men's golf), Elliott Avent (baseball), Tim Santoro (women's soccer), Page Marsh (women's golf), Jon Choboy (men's tennis), Simon Earnshaw (women's tennis), Harold Trammel, (cheerleading), Braden Holloway (swimming and diving), Dave Doeren (football).

Student Athlete Guests: During the academic year, the following student athletes met with the Council and discussed their experiences as student athletes: Ralston Turner (basketball), Jule Rich (track and field), Elisha Hande (tennis), Joe Mills (soccer), Jack Tocho (football).

Athletics Director Updates: Athletics Director Debbie Yow shared and discussed multiple issues with the Council throughout the year. The group reviewed a report on operating budgets for student-athlete academic support units. The report compared conference institutions and was broken down into per-student-athlete expenditures. NC State was second in per-student-athlete expenses. The group reviewed recent graduation success data which also included comparisons to other peer institutions.

Dr. Yow shared a Title IX handout with the group that reflected variances in enrollment and athletic participation numbers at ACC member schools. NC State's five-year average participation ratio variance (comparing the percent of women in the overall student body to the percent of women student athletes) is 1.94 percent which is very good.

Dr. Yow shared information regarding the new Indoor Practice Facility and renovations of Reynolds Coliseum.

Dr. Yow discussed the importance of the ReConnect program through ASPSA, which allows student-athletes to return to finish their degrees.

Dr. Yow also gave an overview of the newly elected Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2016.

New SIS Platform for Certifying Eligibility: Director of SIS Sherwood Bryan, Associate Athletics Director Michelle Lee and ASPSA Director Jermaine Holmes led discussions on the need to streamline the current paper-only method of sharing materials during the eligibility certification process. A new computer-based method, accessed within the MyPack Portal, will pull a student-athlete's live data from the existing student information system transcript and automatically run rules of eligibility. The system will give reviewers the ability to lock and save a copy of a student-athlete's certification at any point.

A dual paper/computer version will be used for certification during the 2014-15 year, as the system continues to be tested and reviewed.

ASPSA Updates: Jermaine Holmes, Director of the Academic Support Program for Student Athletes (ASPSA) provided a summary report from the 2013-14 academic year and explained how the metrics are calculated. Holmes reported that the ASPSA program now employs two full-time learning specialists to work with at-risk student-athletes to develop academic skills that allow them to become independent learners. These learning specialists also serve as liaisons to University Disability Services and conduct necessary skill testing. The group discussed Summer Start and the success of the program. It was noted that the selection of appropriate summer courses for incoming student-athletes is still being evaluated.

Holmes provided a summary report of the presentation given to the Board of Trustees regarding academic success rates and trends. He also discussed the Reconnect program, explaining that the program focuses on helping those former student-athletes outside of the 6-year graduation rate window complete their degree.

Holmes provided a summary report of teams' fall 2015 academic data, including GPA, class enrollment and selection of majors. Concern was expressed that average cumulative student-athlete GPAs have been trending down since 2010 (by an average of .0175 grade points per year), while overall campus trends have been on the rise. It was noted that student-athlete numbers are still positioned within an acceptable range. It was requested that those listed as being enrolled in First Year College be further broken down

to show the number of freshmen and sophomores, as well as to which colleges they were transitioning. It was explained that it can still be difficult for First Year College members to be accepted into the program of their choice. The topic of “intending to major” was also discussed. It was further noted that the Registrar routinely reviews course and major clustering with the Provost’s Athletic Roundtable and that NC State has no issues in this area.

Compliance Education: Senior Associate AD Carrie Doyle briefed the group on various topics throughout the year.

Doyle explained the new autonomy voting process and legislation that was adopted at the January 2015 NCAA convention. Doyle reviewed recently enacted meal legislation as well as led discussions on the potential impacts of cost of attendance legislation and interpretations.

Doyle presented a report to the group on secondary infractions, providing a breakdown of various reported infractions across the ACC. The numbers were analyzed by sport and bylaw and Doyle provided examples of minor rules violations and how they were reported. The group discussed ramifications for repeated infractions and differences in how institutions monitor rule compliance.

Doyle also distributed and reviewed several documents relating to the once-every-four-years compliance review including the executive summary of the report and recommendations from the review as well as a summary of the Syracuse infractions report. The group commended the compliance staff for a job well-done and for the overall findings of the compliance review.

General Counsel Reports: Associate General Counsel Mike Poterala gave the group an overview of the ruling in the O’Bannon vs. NCAA lawsuit. The Council members along with Athletics Director Debbie Yow discussed the ruling’s potential impact on the athletic department, as well as other current events on the national scene, such as NCAA restructuring, meal legislation and loss of value insurance. Dr. Yow also discussed the ongoing Kessler lawsuit that could potentially become the most expensive court case if upheld, since it deals with revenue sharing of TV money with student-athletes.

General Counsel Eileen Goldgeier discussed the work of the Professional Sports Counseling Panel. The Panel is allowed under NCAA guidelines to provide guidance on agents and contracts. Panel members subject matter expertise to assist our student-athletes and coaches. While the panel cannot provide career advice, it can manage expectations and is most effective in providing preventative advice.

Financial Reports: Senior Associate AD Diane Moose provided financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014. The group discussed a number of revenue and expense items included on the statement. Moose reported that the reserve is now at approximately \$4 million, growing from \$1 million over the past four years. Moose also explained how NC State’s athletics budget compared with other ACC budgets.

Funding for ASPSA was discussed. The program currently has an operating budget of \$1.69 million, which doesn't include utility payments. This amount is second highest in the ACC and athletics has an ongoing commitment to the ASPSA budget to benefit our student-athletes.

Athletics has not recently requested an increase from student fees and has no plans to do so.

The group discussed how financial support is provided for athletics-run facilities that also provide support to non-student-athletes. AD Yow reported that she looks forward to Athletics one day being able to give back to campus. The group noted that it would be helpful if the overall campus population knew what contributions Athletics is making to the overall campus and why student-athletes receive apparent benefits. Dr. Sawyers agreed to seek additional opportunities to present to the Faculty Senate in order for them to better understand that Athletics is a self-supported, auxiliary unit.

Senior Associate AD Diane Moose reviewed the 2014-15 budget with the group and compared it to the 2010-11 budget. Moose explained that while budgets can be hard to compare across conference peers, the NC State budget has increased from the bottom third of the league to the middle. It was requested that the group be provided a version that includes revenues, as well as Wolfpack Club numbers. It was noted that the department's annual NCAA Financial report is publicly available online.

Title IX Review: Associate AD and Senior Woman Administrator Michelle Lee provided the group with a document that summarized the three ways in which compliance with Title IX can be achieved in athletics. In addition, Lee reviewed NC State Athletics' historical percentages and numbers for: overall student body enrollment, athletics participation and scholarship allocation. Lee explained how athletics staff members evaluate the numbers and utilize roster management to maintain compliance. It was noted that female enrollment numbers are trending up across the country. The group requested to view an operational budget comparison without factoring in salaries and benefits. It was noted that the Student-life, Equity & Sportsmanship subcommittee plans to review other program areas within the Title IX measurements.

General Counsel Eileen Goldgeier gave a historical view of NC State compliance with the law, including the additions of women's softball and women's golf teams in the early 2000s, stressed the need to constantly reevaluate data, and stated that she is very comfortable with NC State's efforts and results for Title IX.

#### Committee Reports:

Faculty Academic Committee: Chair Joel Pawlak shared revisions to the current attendance policy for at-risk student-athletes. The revision more clearly states the intent of the policy, which is to ensure student-athletes are in class. As long as a student-athlete is present in the class, they will not be penalized within this policy. It was noted that the instructor's own attendance policy will still be in effect for academic credit. The group discussed official versus unofficial absences, the university's policy to accept letters of

excuse for athletically related absences and the variance between academic departments on absence limits. It was moved and unanimously approved to: “Endorse the revisions to the attendance policy for at-risk student-athletes as presented.”

Chair Pawlak reported that the group is reviewing the graduate admissions process and how that impacts mid-year transfers into the university. After discussions with the Provost through the Provost’s Athletic Roundtable, the provost has agreed to help identify the best person in each graduate degree and certificate program to consult regarding any questions.

Finance, Facilities and Personnel Committee: Chair Paul Williams gave a summary of the previous fiscal year’s finances, as well as projections for the current fiscal year.

Student-life, Equity & Sportsmanship committee: Chair Karen Bullock reported on the full schedule of student-athlete welfare activities planned for the year. The committee reviewed the Title IX report as well as the end of year student athlete survey and noted that the members were pleased with both.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR REVISION OF CHARGE AND/OR MEMBERSHIP CONFIGURATION (if applicable)**

Efforts should be made to elect and appoint a diverse group of faculty members to the Council on Athletics. It would be helpful to have faculty who represent most of the undergraduate academic colleges of the university as well as faculty who have significant day- to-day interactions with student athletes due to the large number of student athletes enrolled in their colleges and departments. Of course, diversity of gender and race is also desirable.