

ANNUAL REPORT

University Standing Committee: Council on Athletics

Academic Year Covered by Report: 2015-16

Date Report Submitted: June 1, 2016

Report Submitted by: Roby B. Sawyers, Chair

Number of times committee met: Six

RECOMMENDATIONS

NONE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEE

Council Charge: Chancellor Randy Woodson met with the Council at its second meeting on September 25, 2015 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), 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), Wes Moore (women's basketball), Mark Gottfried (men's basketball), Keith Miller (rifle) and Kelly Findley (soccer).

Student Athlete Guests: During the academic year, the following student athletes met with the Council and discussed their experiences as student athletes: Christian McCurdy (swimming and diving), Ashley Eli (basketball), Alexis Perry (track and field), Jonathan Addison (track and field), Taylor Zaytoun (tennis), Emily Harris (volleyball), Rachel Eppley (volleyball) and Jonathan (Boo) Davis (soccer).

Athletics Director Updates: Athletics Director Debbie Yow shared and discussed multiple topics with the Council throughout the year including planning for the new Case Commons Residence Hall, Reynolds Coliseum renovations, the importance of maintaining and communicating a culture of compliance within athletics using the ERA model (establish, reinforce, act with integrity), involvement of athletics with the Habitat for Humanity Build a Block initiative, heightened security measures at athletic events, details of the new Adidas apparel deal, the leadership academy speaker series, time demands for student athletes, and NCAA legislative proposals.

ASPSA Updates: Katie Graham reported to the group at several of our meetings providing updates on the Summer Start program and detailed academic information from

the 2013-14 academic year as well as Fall 2015 including student athlete GPAs, graduation rates and majors.

Six-year graduation rates as measured by the graduation success rate (GSR) for the 2008 cohort (those entering as freshmen in the fall of 2008) were the highest ever at 83%. Graduation data displayed a steady upward trend which was attributed to increased focus on academic performance, efforts to engage former student athletes to finish their degrees and the use of the tier-system for at-risk student athletes.

The success of the Reconnect Program (providing financial assistance to former student athletes who return and complete their degrees) was also noted with eleven former student athletes enrolled during the year.

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

Doyle explained the new NCAA cost of attendance rules and how NC State will function under the new scholarship definitions. She also provided a review of important enacted NCAA legislation including new definitions of academic misconduct as well as proposed legislation dealing time demands of student athletes.

Doyle also reviewed infraction reports related to cases at SMU, Syracuse and UNC-Chapel Hill during the year.

General Counsel Reports: Rob Hoon, chair of the Professional Sports Counseling Panel provided an update on the activities of the group. The Panel assists student athletes in and their parents by providing practical information, learning opportunities and other services in regard to pursuing a professional athletic career after completing their intercollegiate career. The panel includes former professional student athletes as well as faculty and others with special expertise in financial planning and other topics.

Mr. Hoon also provided an update on NCAA litigation including the O'Bannon case.

Title IX Review: Associate AD Michelle Lee provided a report on Title IX compliance. After seeing a slight increase in the gap between gender participation numbers, as compared to overall campus enrollment, discussions have been initiated with head coaches about roster number management. She explained that roster numbers are recorded after the first official competition. It was noted that Title IX compliance is a part of the overall athletics strategic plan and that self-assessments would identify any concerning trends. Roster numbers are only a part of compliance, as scholarship numbers, operating budgets and facility enhancements are also considered. The university is in good shape, but athletics plans to be vigilant in the oversight efforts.

Sports Medicine Report. Assistant AD Rob Murphy was charged with three tasks upon being hired: improve and enhance the quality and diversity of care for student-athletes, develop comprehensive concussion policy and analyze and update the drug testing policy.

Mr. Murphy provided a presentation to the group on the concussion policy, reviewing the definition, common features, assessment tests, signs and symptoms, as well as management protocol. NC State Athletics Sports Medicine has a comprehensive 25-page plan for concussion management, including referring all concussions to a physician and employing a birds-eye medical observer for every football game.

Committee Reports:

Faculty Academic Committee: Chair Joel Pawlak

The primary role of the Faculty Academic Committee (FAC) is to determine the continuing academic eligibility of our student athletes. In this role, the committee met three times to conduct a continuing eligibility review – before the beginning of the fall semester, at the end of the fall semester and at the end of the spring semester.

During the fall semester of 2015 the Faculty Academic Committee (FAC) met a number of times to discuss other topics of interest to the group included APR and GSR reports as well as the methodology used to determine these metrics, as well as how the faculty might assist student athletes in applying and preparing for various academic and athletic awards.

In the spring semester of 2016, the FAC met to discuss the role of the graduate program liaison for graduate student athletes who transfer to the university. Due to changes in NCAA rules, student athletes are completing their degrees sooner and able to transfer to pursue graduate work at other schools. Dr. Joel Pawlak has acted as the graduate program liaison for the athletics department at the request of the Provost. The duties and procedures for interacting with the liaison (from athletics as well as departmental and college graduate school representatives) were outlined and discussed at the March 4, 2016 FAC meeting. The FAC also discussed the possibility of making this role an appointed position on the Council on Athletics to enhance continuity and institutional knowledge necessary to be an effective liaison.

A sub-committee of the FAC met to review the ACC Post-Graduate Awards applications selecting four students for the honor. The FAC also hosted Coach Doeren for a lunch at Case Dining Hall prior to the full Council on Athletics Meeting on April 29th. This was an excellent chance to informally connect and discuss athletic issues across the university with one of our coaches.

RECOMMENDATION FOR REVISION OF CHARGE AND/OR MEMBERSHIP CONFIGURATION

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.