

ANNUAL REPORT

University Standing Committee: Council on Athletics

Academic Year Covered by Report: 2020-2021

Date Report Submitted: June 25, 2021

Report Submitted by: Joel J. Pawlak, Chair

Number of times committee met: Seven

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council on Athletics remains an engaged and active part of the university governance structure. During this past academic year, there were no formal recommendations made by the council or its subcommittees. The subcommittees engaged in significant discussions that will likely evolve into recommendations during the 2021-22 academic year. It is recommended that the council continue to engage in its work to connect together Athletics with the wider university and other university stakeholders.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEE

This year the Council on Athletics faced challenges similar to many organizations on campus as the COVID-19 Pandemic necessitated the Council to meet virtually. While this presented challenges in terms of connecting together the Council, it did allow for increased participation of the Council. In the new academic year, we may explore a hybrid meeting model that could offer increased participation. Due to the pandemic, the Council did not have the chance to tour any facilities this year, but the plan is to initiate these tours again in the next year.

Council Charge: As tradition, Chancellor Randy Woodson attended the initial meeting of the year to provide the charge to the council. Chancellor Woodson, entering his 11th year as Chancellor at NC State, discussed the challenges that we have faced as an institution and society. He expressed his gratitude for all of the faculty, staff, and administrators for all that they have done to help make NC State campus safe and serve our students. Chancellor Woodson noted his appreciation of Dr. Joel Pawlak, as our Faculty Athletic Representative, and the rest of the Council. Chancellor Woodson then went on to note the purpose of the Council and their importance to the University. Chancellor Woodson closed by noting that this has been a highly unusual year with a significant amount of uncertainty. Uncertainty tends to bring about anxiety on our student-athletes and staff. This has been a very difficult time in our country with systemic racism and social unrest and we are working collaboratively to address this at NC State to be a part of the solution.

Head Coach Guests: During the academic year, the following coaches met with the Council and provided reports on their teams: Laurie Henes (Track and Field), Kevin Keatts (Men's Basketball), Braden Holloway (Swimming and Diving), Kim Landrus (Gymnastics), Simon Earnshaw (Women's Tennis), Dave Doeren (Football), and Press McPhaul (Men's Golf)

Student Athlete Guests: During the academic year, the following student athletes met with the Council and discussed their experiences as student athletes: Emily Shepard (Gymnastics), Jada Rice (Women's Basketball), Julia Zachgo (Women's Cross Country/Track and Field), Shannon Kearney (Women's Swimming and Diving), Jaeda Daniel (Women's Tennis), Melissa Evans (Volleyball), and Elissa Cunane (Women's Basketball)

Athletics Director Updates: Athletics Director Boo Corrigan shared and discussed multiple topics with the Council throughout the year. Early in the year, safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic were the biggest concern. Providing a safe environment for students to study, train and compete proved challenging as testing capabilities were ramped up. Additionally, there was a significant budget gap that needed to overcome as the lack of fans created a revenue gap. Athletic Director Corrigan also noted and commended the work of the student athletes related to social justice. Director Corrigan also describe the changing nature of college athletics with Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) pending in the NCAA. He also recognized Sports Medicine for their efforts in providing a safe environment for our student athletes. Director Corrigan expressed his welcome for the new ACC Commissioner, Jim Phillips.

Financial Reporting Updates: Beverly Armwood, Associate AD for Business and Finance, provided financial updates. At the beginning of the year, there look to be a very large gap in spending and revenue (\$22-\$35 million). There were a number budgeting measures that went into place as well as generous donors that allowed for the year to conclude with no gap in the budget.

Student Engagement Update: Senior Associate AD for Sports Administration & Student Services, Raymond Harrison gave an update regarding student engagement. This included describing the ways students are recognized and efforts to create a more inclusive environment for student athletes of different races, sexual orientation, and nationality.

Wolfpack Club Update: The council welcomed the new Executive Director for the Wolfpack Club, Ben Broussard. Mr. Broussard shared his enthusiasm for NC State and in his short time has been impressed with the support for the program. He is working on bringing on a number of giving programs to increase the connection between donors and student athletes/athletics. Mr. Broussard is looking forward to engaging more fully with the community as the normal operations resume.

Sports Medicine: Rob Murphy, Associate Athletics Director/Sports Medicine Director, joined the Council to provide an update regarding Sports Medicine. Murphy noted that medical expenses increased with demand for COVID testing. For COVID, external relationship with other providers was increased to meet the needs of the student athlete. Much of the additional effort that this year was focused on CVOID-19 testing and developing protocols for student athletes and staff. This includes return to competition requirements for student athletes. This included implementing a contacting tracing program for people who may have been exposed to COVID-19. There has been an increase in telemedicine as this has become more common place and allows for students to access medical services.

Academic Updates: Katie Graham, Director of Academic Support for Student Athletes, joined the Council to provide an update on academic progress. Katie highlighted that the department has achieved

its highest ever department Spring GPA of 3.07 with 18 of 23 teams garnering a GPA above a 3.0. Katie also discussed the various information and metrics for APR and graduation success rate. The Federal Graduation Rate for the student athletes was 69 % and the Graduation Success Rate (GSR) was 89 %. The fall semester delivered a 3.31 GPA for the student athletes. This was a new high term GPA and notably was aided by the enhanced grading policy associated with COVID-19. Twenty two of the twenty three teams had a GPA above 3.0 and 38 student athletes had a 4.0 semester GPA. Ms. Graham noted the concern of the impact of the new graduate transfer policies allowing easier transfer on Annual Progress Rate (APR) scores.

NCAA Legislative Updates: Senior Associate Athletics Director Carrie Doyle briefed the group on various topics throughout the year. This included NCAA legislation and the potential impacts of these rules on the functioning of the athletics department. Topics included changes in the NCAA transfer rules, the COVID Enhance Eligibility, NIL Efforts, and other dynamic changing issues related to the pandemic.

Title IX Review: Associate Athletics Director/ Senior Woman Administrator Michelle Lee provided a report on Title IX compliance including the percent of men and women student athletes compared to the overall student body, and details on scholarship and other athletics spending for men's and women's sports. This included spending on other areas of support such as locker rooms and facilities. This area is being closely monitored for compliance and student demographics tend to shift. The data presented indicates that we are complying with Title IX requirements and compare favorably with other ACC and Peer institutions.

Student Athlete Advisory Committee: Leon Krapf (Men's Soccer) served as the SACC President for NC State this academic year. Leon was also one of three student athlete representatives to the ACC and was also the ACC student representative to the NCAA. During the Council meetings, he reported on the numerous activities the student athletes were involved with throughout the year. This included the #PackUnited social justice initiative. #PackUnited was recognized a formal student organization and also received an award for outstanding campus student organization. The student athletes working through national SAAC were able to initiate NCAA legislation that make Election Day a required day off for all student athletes going forward. This is possibly the first NCAA rule change led solely by student athletes.

ACC Research Grant: Dr. Jason Bocarro joined the Council as guest to provide a report on research funded by the ACC. NC State received a grant from the ACC to look at mental wellness and health resources and utilization rates. The 11 schools that took part in the project reported higher rates of utilization mental health services compared to previous non-COVID years.

Committee Reports:

Faculty Academic Committee: Chair, Jeremiah Feducia

During the annual review for AY 2020-21, this committee recognized a need for a formal internship program within the Athletics Department. It was noted that the Athletics Department routinely hosts interns that are both regular students and student athletes. Currently, there is a lack of centralized organization for internships in the Athletics Department. It was also noted that there is no centralized accounting for student interns within the Athletics Department thus making it difficult to track student interns within the Department. The FAC feels that an opportunity exists to strengthen the student intern experience in the department. Having centralized coordination should also simplify any associated compliance issues. As such, the FAC recommends the creation of a formal internship program within the Athletics Department. Recommendations include: 1) establishing an Internship Coordinator within the Athletics Department, 2) developing and maintaining consistent student expectations, and 3) enhancing the student experience by developing professional development opportunities for interns.

We also began conversations regarding the AY 2021-22 review which will focus on an academic success analysis for student athletes entering NC State in the fall in the bottom quartile of their incoming class. This analysis will include: identifying trends in majors of choice, GPA trend lines, graduation rate, reasons for students leaving early, effectiveness of academic interventions, and a comparison to other student groups (SAs and non-SAs).

The FAC also gathered four times throughout the year to review the continuing academic eligibility of our student athletes. This includes after the Summer I, Summer II, Fall, and Spring semesters. These reviews were conducted via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This provide to be a rather efficient method and summer reviews will likely be conducted in this manner for the future.

Committee on Student Athlete Health and Wellness sub-committee : Chair, Cynthia Zuckerman-Hyman

Dr. Cynthia Zuckerman-Hyman, Faculty in Communication, held a number of meetings during the year. They heard from the Pack Performance Team and began planning steps for connecting with student athletes and supporting student athletes when we return to campus in 2021.

Committee on Legislation: Chair, Jason Flores

The legislative committee had a limited amount of activity due to the NCAA eliminating all proposals for legislation.