

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

University Standing Committee: Council on Athletics

Academic Year Covered by Report: 2021-22

Date Report Submitted: June 30, 2022

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, the Council approved a revised set of bylaws that will be in effect for the 2022-23 academic year.

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

This year the Council on Athletics included a theme in the meeting related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in athletics. While the focus of the meetings remained in alignment to the charge of the Council, each meeting had at least one agenda item related to DEI. Additionally, the Council read the book, Race, Sports, and Education: Improving Opportunities and Outcomes for Black Male College Athletes by Dr. John N. Singer. To conclude the year, Dr. John Singer came to visit the Council in person to discuss his book with the Council. The Council also toured the Dail Basketball Center with Coach Kevin Keatts acting as the tour guide. This year all meetings were held in-person with the option of virtual attendance.

Council Charge: Dr. Randy Woodson, Chancellor, joined the group to provide the charge to the committee. Chancellor Woodson expressed his appreciation for all of the work that the faculty and staff have put in throughout the pandemic. He highlighted the purpose of the COA and that it was formed for the Faculty to have a stronger voice for intercollegiate athletics. Lastly, Chancellor Woodson noted that he serves on the NCAA board of governors and the members of the COA have a voice for NC State.

Head Coach Guests: During the academic year, the following coaches met with the Council and provided reports on their teams: Kevin Keatts (Men's Basketball), Pat Popolizio (Wrestling), Luka Slabe (Volleyball), George Kiefer (Men's Soccer), Braden Holloway (Swimming and Diving), and Kim Landrus (Gymnastics).

Student Athlete Guests: During the academic year, the following student athletes met with the Council and discussed their experiences as student athletes: Peyton Barrish (Men's Cross Country/Track and Field), Jaiden Thomas (Women's Soccer), Kendall Edwards (Men's Soccer), Shannon Kearney (Women's Swimming and Diving), Savannah Shaw (Women's Cross Country/Track and Field), Bayne Bennett (Men's Swimming and Diving), and Isaiah Moore (Football).

Athletics Director Updates: Athletics Director Boo Corrigan shared and discussed multiple topics with the Council throughout the year including the ability of the department of navigate the challenge financial issues related to the pandemic, performance of the athletics teams in championships, the emergence of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) as an opportunity for student athletes and challenge to manage, the continued success of PackUnited, capital projects going-on in football, baseball, women's basketball, women's cross country, nutrition in Weisiger-Brown and in Case Academic Center. The Athletics Director also noted the team National Championship for the Women's Cross Country team, the multiple individual national champions in Swimming and diving, ACC championships for Women's Cross Country, Wrestling, Women's Basketball and a number of individual champions. The Athletics Director made note of the excellent performance in the Learfield Director's Cup (top 20) which is an indication of the overall performance of the athletics department.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: DEI topics throughout the year included an introduction from Dr. Joy Gayles on the topic of race and sports, a visit from the GLBT Center to discuss their activities and how athletics can help promote events, the on-going DEI programs for student athletes and athletics staff, sharing and discussion of race and sports project from USA Today, the Wolfpack Women initiative, and a visit from Dr. John N. Singer.

Financial Reporting Updates: Business Office worked hard through COVID trying to manage the budget and it was changing constantly. Projected a \$22.8 million dollar loss and Athletics ended up with a slightly positive balance. Thank you to the Wolfpack Club, our Guardian Wolves donors, staff and coaches who took salary cuts and went through furloughs, and to the fans who donated tickets back to the department. Everyone gave up something and it was a huge accomplishment. For the upcoming year we receive revenue from our agreements with ESPN and the ACC Network. Attendance in basketball was down so the revenue projection is down. Switched concession vendors and alcohol had a huge sales increase going into the second year of sales. Travel costs have increased and will need to pay attention to the rising costs. As a reminder there are no state funds in Athletics. Athletics is a fully self-supported unit.

Academic Updates: Katie Graham, Assistant Dean and Associate Athletic Director of Athletics for the Academic Support Program for Student Athletes (ASPSA), provided a Presentation - Fall 2022 Academic Update. Mrs. Graham introduced Ashley Grigsby, Associate Director in ASPSA, who started right before COVID. There was a bit of a shock for students last year coming off of COVID but the GPA was strong. The term GPA was 3.06 with 19 of 23 teams over 3.0, cumulative GPA is 3.20. The Council also discussed the class attendance policy.

Compliance and Legislation: Senior Associate Athletics Director Carrie Doyle briefed the group on various topics throughout the year. This included NCAA bylaw changes related to Name, Image, and Likeness. The NCAA had suspended legislative cycles as the NCAA Transformation Committee continues its work. It was also noted that the NCAA has voted in a new constitution. This constitution will enable a number of changes to happen with the NCAA structure.

Title IX Review: Associate Athletics Director Raymond Harrison 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 was the 50<sup>th</sup> year Title IX has been in place and the historic significance was noted. With increasing

numbers of females in the general student body, there continues to be pressure on athletics to meet the benchmarks for Title IX in terms of participation.

Student Athlete Advisory Committee: Lean Krafp (Men's Soccer) and Shannon Kearney (Women's Swimming and Diving) served as the SACC President for NC State this academic year. During the Council meetings, they reported on the various activities that our student athletes are undertaking outside of their sport or academic obligations. The SAAC group acts as the voice and main student group for the student athletes.

#### Committee Reports:

Faculty Academic Committee: Chair, Jeremy Feducia

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 four times to conduct a continuing eligibility review – at the end of the first summer session, before the beginning of the fall semester, at the end of the fall semester and at the end of the spring semester. Additionally, the FAC discussed number of the matters as described below.

As part of the annual review for AY 2021-22, the FAC focused on an academic success analysis for student athletes (SAs) entering NC State in the Fall, with special consideration for the SAs in the bottom quartile of their incoming class. With help from Registration & Records, the analysis compared SAs in various groups (quartiles, residency, race, gender) looking at: graduation rate, cumulative GPA after the first year, incoming majors, and academic plans by term 3. Katie Graham (Asst. Dean and Assoc. AD) reviewed this data and shared it broadly with the academic coordinators within ASPSA. Ultimately, the anticipated action item from this review was to provide data to support/refute anecdotal information regarding academic trends among SAs. The FAC hopes that Assoc. AD Graham and the team in ASPSA will use this information to identify groups within the SA population that can benefit from academic intervention/support programs.

In addition to the annual review, the FAC reviewed the NC State Postseason Eligibility policy. The most recent language for the policy was from 2015, with the most recent revision in 2008. At that time, certain safeguards were not in place to make sure students were meeting continuing academic eligibility standards. Since that time, those safeguards (namely APR requirements) are now in place and this policy only served to create an additional administrative burden on coaches, Athletics staff, and the FAR. The FAC reviewed the number of times in which this policy was utilized, and recognizing that students in almost all cases were successful in their appeal, voted in favor to recommend removal of the policy, which was accomplished at the Spring 2022 Provost's Roundtable meeting.

Committee on Student Athlete Health and Wellness sub-committee (2019/20): Chair, Cynthia Hyman-Zuckerman

The primary goal of this committee for the 2021-22 academic year was to build networks and relationships with the SAAC committee on Student Wellbeing and the student athlete leadership. To that goal, I attended the SAAC meeting on October 17, 2021 to present to SAAC on the COA committee on Student Health and Wellness. I presented information on the goals and purpose of the committee on

Student Health and Wellness, and then met with the SAAC committee on Student Wellbeing to hear their ideas.

The committee on Student Health and Wellness met twice during the 2021-22 academic year. Our first meeting was in October to discuss the feedback from the SAAC committee on Student Wellbeing and our options for moving forward. The main goals to come out of that meeting were ways to engage with students in relationship-building activities, such as working with them on the service projects that they have and having beginning of the year and end of the year celebrations with the students. After this October meeting, I met with Jaiden Thomas, the chair of the SAAC Student Wellbeing committee, to discuss the information from the committee on Student Health and Wellness and brainstorm additional means of engagement.

The committee on Student Health and Wellness met again in February 2022 to follow-up on our goals of engagement with students where they are. The committee did provide a basket of treats for students and staff to pick up a goodie for Valentine's Day as a means to increase the visibility of the committee on Student Health and Wellness. Unfortunately, we were not able to coordinate and end of the year event with ASPSA for the students.

Ideas to come from the SAAC committee of Student Wellbeing that will necessitate support from the committee on Student Health and Wellness are 1) the creation of a mental health awareness event during athletic events, and 2) a proposal from students for continuing education around the importance of mental health. For the first item, there are two calendar options for the awareness —May during mental health awareness month, and September during suicide prevention and survivor month.

The committee on Student Health and Wellness notes that the chair for the SAAC Student Wellbeing committee needs to be a member of the committee on Student Health and Wellness, and that the members of the committee on Student Health and Wellness should also meet regularly with the SAAC Student Wellbeing committee.

Committee on Legislation: Chair, Jason Flores

The committee focuses on providing guidance regarding proposed NCAA legislation as well as input on how to enact passed NCAA legislation. The Committee on Legislation had a relatively light meeting schedule for the academic year as most NCAA legislation was put on hold while the NCAA Modernization Committee and NCAA Transformation Committee are doing their work. The committee did meet once during the fall semester to discuss legislative proposals and developed a plan to review the Student Athlete Handbook for the next year.