

ANNUAL REPORT

University Standing Committee: Council on Athletics

Academic Year Covered by Report: 2022-23

Date Report Submitted: June 30, 2023

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. The Council recommended a revision to the student-athlete attendance policy to modernize the language and address increasingly diverse methods of course delivery. Coach Laurie Henes, Women's Cross Country, was recognized by a formal commendation of the Council for her long-standing service and exceptional leadership with the University.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEE

This year the Council on Athletics included a theme related to the student-athlete experience in the meetings. While the focus of the meetings remained aligned with the charge of the Council, each meeting had an additional focus on important areas in our student-athletes' everyday lives. The Council visited the NC State football practice to get an idea of the demands placed on the students related to practice time and the other activities related to practice. These demands include preparing for practice (ex. taping, medical treatment, etc.) and departing practice (ex. getting nutrition, medical, recovery plans, etc.). The Council also toured the renovated Case Academic Center. During this tour, Council members could see the investments taking place to improve the functionality and aesthetics of the academic center. The Council discussed revising the language of the student-athlete class attendance policy to address the diverse ways class is delivered. The attendance policy was discussed as an essential academic intervention for students. 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 the Council's work on intercollegiate athletics oversight. He also commented on his service to the NCAA and the rapidly changing landscape of college athletics. The Chancellor mentioned the positive direction of the Athletics Department under the leadership of Athletics Director Boo Corrigan.

Head Coach Guests: During the academic year, the following coaches met with the Council and provided reports on their teams: Jennifer Patrick-Swift (Women's Softball), Elliot Avent (Baseball), Luka Slabe (Women's Volleyball), Simon Earnshaw (Women's Tennis), Darby Sligh (Associate Head Coach for Women's Golf), Dave Doeren (Football), Kyle Spencer (Men's Tennis)

Student Athlete Guests: During the academic year, the following student-athletes met with the Council and discussed their experiences as student-athletes: Bayne Bennett (Men's Swimming and Diving), Josh

Brockman (Men's Track and Field), Meredith Robinson (Women's Gymnastics), Sam Highfill (Baseball), Maria Echezarreta (Women's Soccer), Lulu Black (Women's Cross Country/Track and Field), Abigail Renschli (Women's Tennis)

Athletics Director Updates: Athletics Director Boo Corrigan and his designees shared and discussed multiple topics with the Council throughout the year, including the changing landscape of college athletics and the influence of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL), the performance of the athletics team including another National Championship in Women's Cross Country and multiple individual National Champions. NC State also won four ACC Championships (Women's Cross Country, Men's Swimming and Diving, Wrestling, and Women's Tennis). AD Corrigan discussed capital investment over the past year and planned expenditures. These projects included a renovation of Case Academic Center, new lights for football and baseball, a new nutrition center in Weisiger-Brown, a new field for soccer, renovated weight room for football, and new scoreboards for football and baseball. The Athletics Director mentioned the excellent performance in the Learfield Director's Cup (top 20), which indicates the overall performance of the athletics department. It was also noted that Jaeda Daniel, a student-athlete for Women's Tennis, was a finalist for the NCAA Women of the Year Award.

Student-Athlete Experience: The focus on the student-athlete experience brought several topics to Council. The COA chair presented information related to time management for student-athletes and the annual review that is conducted in accordance with NCAA requirements. There was also a discussion about the difference in the daily routine for non-athletes and athletes. The Council visited football practice to understand the demands placed on the students and toured the renovated Case Academic Center. Dan Bellamy, Associated AD for Sports Medicine, met with the Council to discuss sports medicine and recent changes to the delivery of care to student-athletes. The Council discussed the personal and professional development activities supported by the Athletics Department and other events designed to connect students (ex. food trucks, small community groups, PackUnited). Dr. Michelle Joshua presented the activities of Sports Psychology to the Council. An interactive feedback session was held to gather input to improve the mental wellness of the student-athletes.

Financial Reporting Updates: Beverly Armwood, Senior Associate AD of Business Operations, reviewed the athletics' budget. She talked through the last three years of financials and how, post-COVID, the department is getting back on track with normal revenues from multimedia rights, Wolfpack Club, ticket sales, etc. The Business Office has noticed a spike in travel expenses due to rising transportation costs, hotels, and meals. The current expenditure for FY22-23 will be ~\$105 million, with the budget balancing. It was noted that the Athletics Department is a self-supporting auxiliary unit of the University. Cash reserves increased over the course of the year.

Academic Updates: Katie Graham, Assistant Dean & Associate AD for Academics, spoke about the cumulative GPA for all our teams after the Fall 2022 semester. The department-wide cumulative GPA was 3.18. She also said we had 62 student-athletes with a 4.0 in the Fall and 349 with over a 3.0. NC State's graduation rate is projected to be 92% this year. Katie gave an update on the dispersion of our student-athletes' majors and compared it to the rest of the campus. She reviewed the Academic Progress Rate and where we can still recover points. Mrs. Graham discussed ways that ASPSA is trying to improve the experience for the student-athletes and how to work around the schedules of each sport.

Compliance and Legislation: Senior Associate Athletics Director Carrie Doyle and Associate Athletics Director Jeff Smith briefed the group on various topics throughout the year. These briefings included NCAA bylaw changes and the start of the new legislative cycle. The updates were focused on showing the ever-changing regulatory environment of college athletics.

Title IX Review: Raymond Harrison, Senior Associate AD of Leadership, Inclusion, and Engagement, gave an update on the department's Title IX progress. He described what Title IX Compliance is and how there are three areas: Participation, Scholarships, and Other Benefits. Currently, NC State's participation is off by 8.72% due to the University's undergraduate enrollment becoming 50/50 with male and female students. He noted it is an area the department is looking into. He continued the rest of the presentation and showed what NC State is doing well in Title IX compliance.

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee: Jaiden Thomas (Women's Soccer) served as the SACC President for NC State this academic year. During the Council meetings, she 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

As part of the annual AY 2022-23 review, the FAC participated in a recent review of ASPSA's tutoring program by Emily Clinkhammer, Associate Director for Learning Specialist and Support Services. The tutoring program is a key element of student retention, and recent staffing changes prompted a review of where the program stood and how it could be further enhanced. Following a presentation by Emily on the extensive exit surveys performed with tutors and student-athletes, as well as conversations with Emily and Katie Graham (Asst. Dean and Assoc. AD), the FAC provided feedback on the recommendations below. In addition to the continued implementation of exit surveys to measure effectiveness, the Assoc. Dir. for Learning Specialist and Support Services will update the FAC regarding the impact of the recommendations.

FAC Recommendations to ASPSA regarding Tutoring Program:

- Increase starting pay to at least \$12/hr, which is in line with the Academic Success Center on campus; also consider a pay scale that increases with experience and/or training; explore the possibility of endowing mentors and/or interns as this can free up money to increase tutor pay
- Include "soft skills" training for tutors (e.g. how to make a good first impression, how to create a welcoming environment); add small group "scenario" training sessions into tutor training workshops. This training would allow trainers to model behaviors for tutors
- Identify opportunities to utilize campus resources to train and support tutors (e.g. communicate w/ academic units on campus to access educational resources, ask CHASS librarians to help train tutors, etc.)
- Create talking points and defined communication channels to deliver the message surrounding student expectations in tutoring; Asst. Director/Learning Specialist -> Academic Coordinators -> coaches/SAs
- Invite Associate Director for Learning Specialist and Support Services (currently Emily Clinkhammer) to speak with FAC annually to discuss the implementation of these recommendations

In addition to the annual review, identifying NC State nominees for the ACC Postgraduate Scholarships, and completing eligibility reviews, the FAC discussed an issue of concern related to transfer students enrolling late due to the time periods for transfer windows. The concern is related to students not being able to enroll in enough credits to make them academically eligible. Considering we have not had transfer students face this issue, we believe there are significant safeguards in place to prevent this, namely extensive communication between the transfer student and ASPSA, prompt reviewing of previous coursework by Reg&Records, and constant communication with academic advisors across campus. Regardless, it was recommended that ASPSA leverage faculty engagement on FAC to continue building bridges to academic units across campus to identify enrollment opportunities should a transfer student face this situation.

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

The committee met during the course of the academic year. The discussion was focused on student-athlete mental health and well-being. The meeting included reviewing the NC State Student Government report on Mental Health Intervention. The discussion focused on interventions and support for students during difficult times on campus.

Committee on Legislation: Chair, Kanton Reynolds

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 reviewed NCAA rule changes and upcoming proposed legislation. The committee also discussed how new language in the NCAA constitution related to the role of the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) and how it could be implemented. It was suggested that the FAR meet with each team during the year to introduce his role to the team. The committee also continued a review of the student-athlete handbook with the lens of DEI. No substantial changes to the handbook were recommended at this time.