

NC State Council on Athletics
Friday, January 26, 2024 – Talley 4280
12:00 pm

Attendees:

Joel Pawlak – Faculty, Forest Biomaterials (*Chair – Council on Athletics*)
Laura Bottomley – Faculty, Engineering
Keith Edmisten - Faculty, Soil & Crop Sciences
Cathy Crossland - Faculty, TELS
Tara Mullins - Faculty, Performing Arts and Technology
Marion Martin - Faculty, Chemistry
Steven Lechner - Faculty, History
Kimberly Bush - Faculty, Parks, Recreation & Tourism Mgt
Amanda Edwards - Faculty, Public & International Affairs
Chris DePerno - Faculty, Forestry & Environmental Resources
Jason Osborne - Faculty, Statistics
Ralston Turner - AAR, Alumni Association
Grant Johnston - AAR, Alumni Association
Buzzy Correll - NC State Student Aid Association (Wolfpack Club)
Wendy Crumpler - SAAR, Student Aid Association
Katie Graham - Academic Support for Student Athletes - Ex-Officio
Boo Corrigan - Athletic Director, Athletics - Ex-Officio
Shawn Troxler - General Counsel - Ex-Officio
Jaiden Thomas - Student-Athlete, SAAC

Guest Attendees:

Stephanie Menio, Michelle Lee, Todd Stansbury, Carrie Doyle, Beverly Armwood, Paige Timberlake, Braden Holloway (Guest Head Coach), Caden Tolentino (Guest Student-Athlete)

Unable to Attend:

Sheri Schwab, Catherine Carter, Kanton Reynolds, Megan Aljian, David Elrod

1. Welcome. Joel Pawlak welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.
2. Previous Minutes. The minutes of the December 8th meeting were reviewed.

It was MOVED to:

“Approve the minutes of the December 8, 2023 Council on Athletics meeting”
(*APPROVED - Unanimously*)

3. Guest Head Coach. Braden Holloway, Head Swim and Dive Coach, provided a handout that detailed the history of what his teams have done over time. Mentioned that he and his wife were both on the swim team at NC State. Said he is competitive & doesn't like losing but also wants students to have a good experience. Goal is to create a competitive environment and grow into

great individuals. Last season NC State was the top combined program in the country. Spoke about the challenge of building and developing both the men and women's programs. Mentioned they sent student-athletes to the Pan American games. Kennedy Noble came back with multiple gold medals and broke 2 records. Men's team came back with 15 total medals. Just came off a big winning weekend last weekend. Women had their 9th straight win over UNC and the men had their 10th straight win over UNC. Women's team graduated a strong class last year so they are young this season, but the signing class coming in the Fall is really good. Men's team is really talented but needs the swimmers to score in more than one race to get over the hump of being good to great. Diving facilities at NC State make it difficult to recruit but tries to find diamonds in the rough, which is how he built the program in the first place. Pays attention to academics and how they handle questions about it. Also pays attention to whether the recruits are nice to their parents. Team philosophy is that he wants people to feel valued and that they have a role on the team. Said staff is vulnerable & honest with the student-athletes, which allows the student-athletes to be the same way. Noted a big shift that student-athletes want to feel important and want to know you are paying attention. Brought up when people feel the level of the value they provide it goes a long way. Said we should be really proud of our brand because it is different. Was asked about recruiting and noted that 80% of his scholarships are out-of-state. He said he has a total of 9.9 scholarships for the men and 14 scholarships for the women. Mentioned they have several walk-ons and international student-athletes. Was asked if there was a plan to improve the diving facilities and said most important thing is that the boards are on a cycle of being replaced and maintained. Also asked about the new additions of the University of California, Stanford, and SM. Said that the California men won the last 3 national titles, and that both Stanford and California are dominant programs nationally. Concluded by saying that the ACC Championship will be an exciting meet.

4. Guest Student-Athlete. Caden Tolentino, sophomore from Pinehurst, NC, is a member of the Men's Soccer team. Played with NCFC growing up. Big part of his recruitment was his relationship with former coaching staff at NC State because they coached for NCFC. Was recruited by Duke and UNC, but wanted to be a part of the NC State program and build it up. Wasn't sure what he wanted to major in coming in, but chose engineering and was a good fit. Involved with SAAC and wants to help foster student-athletes and help them find and use their voice. Also wants to improve the relationship between student-athletes and administration. Ideal plan after graduation would be to play professional soccer and work. Doesn't want his academics to go to waste while he is continuing soccer. Said this team is his favorite he's been on. Loves the relationships he's formed with teammates and likes to guide the international student-athletes and help them develop and use their resources outside of soccer. Talked about how he's excited to get things going with the new head coach, Marc Hubbard. Goal is to build a competitive environment and make the NCAA tournament. Was asked what made him choose NC State and he said NC State had good people and the blue collar culture of working hard pulled him in. Also asked how the new expansion teams will impact their season and said it's good for ACC soccer and it will push more teams into the tournament. Also said the travel will be tough but his teammates are excited to go to California next year. Was asked his suggestions for a bridge between the administration and the student-athletes and he said to approach the student-athletes first to get them out of their shell and then build the relationship and gain their trust.

5. Athletic Department Update. Boo Corrigan gave the update. Athletics finished 19th in the Directors Cup for Fall. Said NC State usually scores really well with our winter sports. Mentioned the Directors Cup is a byproduct of what we do, not our sole focus. Spoke about how the decisions are made with coaching changes. Want it to be a planned process of meeting with the coach and assistants, have a conversation with the student-athletes, send email to alumni of the program, form a search committee, in person interviews, come to a conclusion as a group, and tell the team the decision. Spoke about Caden Tolentino's comments regarding student-athletes approaching the administration. Said it's hard to have individual relationships with 600 student-athletes but tries to show the support through going to events, being consistent and having an open door policy. Mentioned the David Thompson Statue and how it took 3 ½ years because of the methodical approach the department took. Got the Chancellors involved and wanted it to be done right because of how important David is to this University. Talked about NC State's approach to the college athletics landscape. Our focus is on who we are and making sure we are really good at what we do. Focus on our brand and telling our story to stay engaged and put ourselves forward. Was asked about experience on the College Football Playoff committee and said it was a great honor to serve as the Chair.
6. SAAC Updates. Jaiden Thomas gave the update. Went to the ACC SAAC meetings in January with Caden Tolentino. Main topics of the meeting were how to welcome the new members for the 2024 season (Cal, SMU, Stanford) and a mental health proposal. Proposal is for more support and a better ratio of sport psychologists to student-athletes. Also brought in a lawyer to discuss the proposals around student-athletes becoming employees of the institutions. NC State SAAC talked about it at the latest meeting and voted against it. Will be writing a letter to Congress on their stance. Broke out into subcommittees and Personal Development group talked about more regular career fairs to help student-athletes decide their paths. Mental Health group discussed Wellness Day and decided on "Self Care and Recovery" as a theme. Will be providing different activities for student-athletes around self care. Talking to Case Dining about reimplementing the Recovery Stations during dinner and offering recipe options again (pre-Covid). Took volunteers for the Wolfies planning committee and at the next meeting will be discussing parking on campus.
7. Sub-Committee Updates.
 - Faculty Academic Committee - Laura Bottomley gave the update. Scheduling a meeting and will have an update at the February meeting.
 - Student-Athlete Health and Wellness - Keith Edmisten & Tara Mullins gave the update. Working on ways for the arts to intersect with wellness for the student-athletes. Sent survey to SAAC members to get feedback on workshops (stage makeup, stage combat, dance classes, stretch classes, switch day) and having a station in Case with wellness resources (coloring and journaling). Goal is to make student-athletes feel less isolated and well rounded.
 - Legislative - Kanton Reynolds was unable to attend the meeting and had no update.
8. Adjournment. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:29pm.