

NC State Council on Athletics
Friday, September 27th, 2024 - Talley 3222
12:00pm

Attendees:

Joel Pawlak - Faculty, Forest Biomaterials (*Chair - Council on Athletics*)
Marion Martin - Faculty, Chemistry
Steven Lechner - Faculty, History
Wendy Crumpler - SAAR, Student Aid Association
Laura Bottomley - Faculty, Engineering Education
Jason Bocarro - Faculty, Natural Resources
Katie Graham - Academic Support for Student Athletes - Ex-Officio
Buzzy Correll - Faculty, Wolfpack Club
Jason Osborne - Faculty, Statistics
David Elrod - Faculty, Equal Opportunity
Shawn Troxler - General Counsel - Ex-Officio
Jordan Snell - Student-Athlete, SAAC
Chris Deperno - Faculty, Natural Resources
Keith Edminsten - Faculty, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
Amanda Edwards - Faculty, Humanities & Social Sciences
Kanton Reynolds - Faculty, Engineering

Guest Attendees:

Michelle Lee, Todd Stansbury, Stephanie Menio, Jon Tanguay, Raymond Harrison, DeAngelo Giles, Members of the Technician, Taylor Ensley

Online Attend: Grant Johnston, Joy Gayles

Unable to Attend: Ben Broussard, Sheri Schwab, Terra Mullins, Boo Corrigan

1. Welcome. Dr. Joel Pawlak welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm.
2. Previous Minutes.

It was MOVED to:

“Approve the minutes of the August 23rd Council on Athletics meeting”
(*APPROVED - Unanimously*)

3. Guest Student Athlete - Taylor Ensley: Taylor talked about the new coaching staff and the experience of playing softball at NC State. She mentioned the effect of COVID on her recruitment process. Last year, the team did not get the results they had hoped for but the coaches

continued to pour love and support into the team. The coaches have become a true light in her life and a reason that she is happy to go to practice every day. Athletes in Action has been a great community that has allowed her to grow socially and in her faith as well. Taylor emphasized how well student-athletes are treated in her experience here at NC State. She hopes to get into guidance counseling after graduation. Taylor is looking forward to building the team culture even more this upcoming season. She spoke about the improvements that have been made since hiring the new coaching staff. Taylor answered a number of questions and talked about the role of analytics in softball and her transition from infield to outfield. Taylor described the parallels between softball struggles and life as a whole.

4. Guest Head Coach - Darby Sligh: Coach Sligh began by talking about taking over for Page Marsh, a coach for whom she has a deep respect. The team is phenomenal and the kids show up with joy every single day. Coach has added an assistant who was the head coach from Western Carolina (who had plenty of success there). The mission is to compete for championships. Coach described the challenges with not everyone on the team traveling and how to maintain morale while they are on the road. The vision is that everyone works to play a unique and impactful role in the team's success. Coach Sligh spoke about her philosophy of consistently reminding the team to be the best version of themselves in actions and by asking questions. Golf is a sport that has a lot of failures. She discussed the changes in statistics and rankings for golf programs. There are no longer head-to-head opponents. They compete with a number of other teams at once. Scoreboard by Clippd is the new scoring system for NCAA Women's golf. The new scoring/ranking system makes scheduling even more important. The team must have enough season wins to be eligible for the postseason. The way that the sport is played emphasizes being the best version of yourself and not worrying about the other teams you are competing against. The growth of the game should continue to take off based on the scheduling changes and the new events that will come with that. Stanford, Cal, and SMU are all top 20 teams that will increase the competitiveness of the conference. They coach with high expectations and high support way. Coach Sligh finished by talking about recruiting and how golf is a global game. A lot of the talent for our team is being pulled from all over the world.
5. Athletics Update - Michelle Lee: Chief of Staff Lee began by addressing the latest House case news. This update included expressing concerns about the collective and their future. The judge in the House case has asked for the two parties to come together to try and address a few of her concerns related to the settlement. At the moment, there are no significant updates as we are still currently waiting to hear back from the judge. Shawn Troxler also mentioned that the issue is more related to boosters and whether their payments should be regulated based on a fair market review. Both parties in the house case have submitted briefs that allow for changes in the language. Athletics fall seasons have gotten off to a great start. Volleyball and Soccer have upcoming matches. Men's Soccer is having the best start to the season since 1992. The football game vs NIU is the 16th sellout, which is also a school record. Questions were asked regarding the House case. Chief of Staff Lee mentioned that the hope is that things will be approved and on track for July, but nothing is currently set in stone. Everything will stay as is until things are fully approved. This timing is increasingly tricky given that certain sports are currently recruiting.

6. Nutrition - Jon Tanguay: Assistant AD Tanguay started two years ago. Previously, there were sports dietitians, but there was not a lot of leadership or stability within the program. Assistant AD Tanguay talked about hiring five dietitians with the goal of staffing Sports Nutrition sustainably. The previous way that staff was organized was centered around Athletics Facilities. This placed a strain on certain staff members as they were constantly “in season.” The department uses Google Calendar to be efficient with their time and to make the most of their resources. Clinical, education, food service, organization staffing, and integrated performance are the main buckets into which nutrition pours. Sports Nutrition is not actively involved with student-athlete recruitment, but the department is referenced almost any time we have a recruit on campus. They work with student-athletes to talk about lifestyle, sleep, and other eating habits, as well as scans and screenings to see areas where deficiencies may be present. Bone health has a strong correlation to nutrition and diet. They work to understand who needs more help and who needs a little more pushing. Nutrition is the only department that can give out information to the student-athletes on these topics. DEXA Scans are important for certain sports, measuring health and reducing risks of injury. Athletes are all very different, and there are a number of factors that need to be considered in order to maximize performance. Sweat and hydration testing are also being monitored for outdoor sports that are being played in the heat. Pack Performance is a group that comes together from all of the different sides that affect student-athletes and work to better serve student-athletes. Education is a key component in terms of nutrition as well both in group and individual settings. Food service is the process of getting the products needed to help fuel the athletes safely and cost-effectively. Assistant AD Tanguay mentioned that he was one of the first 16 full-time dietitians in sports, and now there is at least one full-time dietitian at every single Power 4 school. Nutrition also works on facility design to maximize space and minimize inefficiencies. Chefs and culinary staff also fall under the umbrella of nutrition. They are actively recruiting for one of the positions. Budget management, policy and procedures, and limiting liability can help ensure the elevation of our sports programs. The NCAA also has rules and guidelines in terms of nutrition. There are limited time and resources, which makes it even more vital that we maximize what we have to lead to athletic success.
7. SAAC Update - Jordan Snell: SAAC recently had a meeting and created three subcommittees. One initiative is to encourage student-athletes to register to vote. The SAAC Governance committee will follow the House case and educate as many student-athletes as possible based on changes. The last committee is student-athlete well-being, which will focus on mental health. There are a number of events in October for Student-Athletes to take advantage of. This past July, we had two representatives at the SAAC ACC meeting in Charlotte, NC. The ACC SAAC is planning to send a letter to Congress to discuss student-athlete employment. The three main sports discussed in the House case are men’s and women’s basketball and football, but other sports are impacted. PACK United week starts on Sunday., 9/29/24
8. Subcommittee Reports: Monday will be the meeting for the subcommittee. Kanton Reynolds spoke to the fact that they are awaiting a decision on the House case.

Adjournment. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:24pm