

NC State Council on Athletics
Friday, December 6th, 2024 - Talley 4280
12:00 PM

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
Buzzy Correll - Faculty, Wolfpack Club
Jason Osborne - Faculty, Statistics
David Elrod - Faculty, Equal Opportunity
Chris Deperno - Faculty, Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology
Keith Edmisten - Faculty, Crop and Soil Sciences
Jaiden Thomas - Student-Athlete, SAAC
Tara Mullins - Faculty, Performing Arts and Technology
Grant Johnston - Alumni Association
Sheri Schwab - Faculty, Equal Opportunity
Shawn Troxler - Faculty, General Counsel
Amanda Edwards - Faculty, Humanities & Social Sciences
Grant Johnson - NC State Alumni Association

Guest Attendees:

Michelle Lee, Todd Stansbury, DeAngelo Giles, Brad Brown, Stephanie Menio, Wes Moore, Carrie Doyle, Rachel Conway, Isaiah Shirley

Unable to Attend: Katie Graham, Kanton Reynolds, Jason Bocarro, Matthew Coffey, Joy Gayles

1. Welcome. Dr. Joel Pawlak welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM.
2. Previous Minutes.

It was MOVED to:

“Approve the minutes of the October 25th Council on Athletics meeting”
(*APPROVED - Unanimously*)

3. Guest Head Coach - Wes Moore: Coach Moore starts by thanking the group for inviting him to speak. He extended a special thanks to Joel for all his help with the Women's basketball team. The women's basketball team's GPA has been above 3.0 for more years than he can remember. They were able to have eight scholar athletes despite all of the travel throughout the season. A couple of years ago, the team had lots of individual talent but poor team chemistry. It felt like the culture was not great and not the best year for him. However, it created an appreciation for the other years of his coaching career. Following that year, they lost their top four scorers. The team

went into last year unranked and, as a result, brought no expectations into the opening game. The season began with a big win over number two ranked UCONN and several other quality wins. In February, the team had risen to the top five in the country. Expectations are constantly changing as the season progresses. They came up just short of four ACC Championships in five years. Coach Moore commented on the NCAA's sense of humor in terms of creating the playoff brackets. Tennessee and Chattanooga were announced as coming to NC State to start the NCAA tournament. (Coach Moore has connections to both schools). The team defeated both schools to advance to the Sweet Sixteen. He discussed the road to the Final Four and how all of the cities did a great job hosting the tournament. Coach commented on how the team received so much gear that they had to drive a bus back to Raleigh with the gear. Over the summer, Coach Moore has had time to reflect on the great run but believes it is now time to look towards the future. The team was able to add a McDonald's All-American to help the cause. Coach spoke about the perks of being at a place like NC State, where you can land big-time recruits. The team has played a very difficult non-conference schedule thus far, already playing three top 10 teams. Coach hopes that a tough schedule will prepare the team for the challenges of Women's Basketball in the ACC. NIL and the transfer portal have changed things for better or for worse. NIL has the potential to change the culture of locker rooms all over the country. Coach Moore invited all members to come watch practice or catch a game if possible. Dr. Pawlak asks about fan support and what that means for recruiting, etc. Coach Moore says he wishes that Reynolds held a couple thousand more fans. They have now come to expect that ACC games will be sold out and that we have a great atmosphere and huge homecourt advantage. Dr. Bottomley asks about the impact of NIL and new rules on engineering students who are also playing basketball. Coach talked about crafting the practice schedule to allow students to pursue whatever they want in school. He also spoke about the fact that Stanford and Cal have it much worse regarding scheduling with the addition of cross-country travel. Lastly, he mentioned that he really appreciates engineering and all that it does for the University.

4. Guest Student-Athlete - Isaiah Shirley: Isaiah begins by discussing his experience at NC State over the first two years. He originally arrived on campus looking to major in sports management. He later switched to business, which he is pursuing now. He detailed why he chose NC State and said it was his third scholarship offer. Coach Wiles called him, and it immediately felt like a family. He wanted to be around a hard-working culture. Coach Doeren began to pray at dinner during his visit to NC State. His mom cried at the meal, and he decided right then that he had to come to NC State. He spoke about being a huge family guy and how he did not even consider schools that were not close to home. Isaiah began with SAAC early in his college career and was able to attend the leadership forum. He learned a lot about leadership, which allowed him to bring that knowledge back to his teammates. He talked about being able to learn from this year and being better because of it. He highlighted some of the pros and cons of NIL and how comparison is the thief of joy. The collectives do a good job of ensuring that everyone is pulling in the right direction and not bragging about how much you make or creating other distractions. He discussed some of the work that he has done with youth in the community. He discussed being taken in by his little league baseball coach in the 6th grade and the impact that made on his life. He wants to play professional football after graduation. Isaiah has recently begun looking into youth ministry

or marketing as other career paths as well. He understands that he will never be the guy sitting in the cubicle. Lastly, he discusses his excitement for the future of NC State Football.

5. Stephanie Menio Athletics Update: Stephanie began by introducing Brad Brown and welcoming him to the Athletics Department after coming from Clemson. She discussed the excitement of beating UNC to close out the football season and said that we would find out which bowl we would be in on Sunday. Volleyball was also able to knock off top 10 ranked SMU and make it to the postseason. They have only been selected for the NCAA Tournament four times since 1975. They will be competing tonight against number 22 Florida in the postseason. Our Men's soccer team went to the Sweet Sixteen for the first time since 1994, which was a huge step forward for our program. Women's cross country top also achieved a top 10 finish. We are also currently conducting a search for the new Women's Soccer Head Coach. She spoke about the excitement related to our teams and the strong culture Wes Moore has created. Hanging the banners for Men's and Women's basketball, and adding Payton Wilson to the ring of honor at Cater-Finley Stadium gave the University opportunities to celebrate NC State Athletics. Ms. Menio discussed the partnership with ISE, which is looking into the potential name change of Carter-Finley Stadium. Boo was able to speak to both the Carters and Finleys before moving forward with exploring naming rights. Dr. Pawlak asked about an update related to the House case. Michelle Lee said that we are implementing the settlement provisions. With signing day for football the previous Wednesday, athletes needed to have the necessary paperwork to sign if the settlement is finalized. Thus far, it has been relatively smooth. Carrie Doyle detailed the changes to the NLI (National Letter of Intent) as the NCAA is phasing them out.
6. Athletics Communications Update Annabelle Myers: Mrs. Meyers started by recounting her time at NC State. She has worked with four Athletics Directors, four Football coaches, and a number of Chancellors. She came to NC State from Clemson after graduating from there. She described the communications staff and the various areas that they oversee. There is a wide variety of ages and experience levels within their team. She spoke to the ways communications has evolved over the years: sports information, media relations, and now communications. The most important thing that communications does is to "craft messaging and tell our story." We are selling a culture and a family that goes beyond facilities and other physical assets. She listed the media operations and all the factors contributing to it. The staff also runs the social media accounts and oversees all content being produced. There is also a connection between communications and broadcast media/TV talent. Producers and communications team members collaborate to make our events the best they can be. Mrs. Meyers concluded by outlining the importance of history and record keeping as a part of the job.
7. Jaiden Thomas SAAC Update: It has been quite a busy time of the year with many meetings. Dr. Pawlak guided a group of SAAC leaders on a nature walk during the SAAC Leadership Pause. Tara Mullins also led a mindfulness and relaxation practice in Carmichael as part of the event. There are a lot of athletes in-season as this is the crossover season from fall to winter sports. Jaiden discussed graduating and transitioning to a new SAAC president at the next meeting. Dr. Pawlak thanked Jaiden for her contributions as part of the Council over the years. He highlighted how she is responsible for recruiting the student-athletes who speak at COA and how that can be

difficult. Jaiden details her next steps and looks towards the future of one day becoming a collegiate athletic director.

8. Subcommittee report: Kanton will arrange a meeting starting next month. Tara described the Well-Being Subcommittee's effort in putting together the Leadership Pause and thanked Grant Johnson for the journals and pens used for the event. She provided additional details about the activity and how engaged the student-athletes were. They plan to be involved with the Wolfies moving forward as well.
9. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:44 PM, having no further business.