

ANNUAL REPORT

University Standing Committee: Council on Athletics

Academic Year Covered by Report: 2024-25

Date Report Submitted: June 30, 2024

Report Submitted by: Joel J. Pawlak, Chair

Number of times the committee met: Seven

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council did not make any formal recommendations during the academic year.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEE

The theme for the Council on Athletics this year was “the team behind the team.” The agenda included visitors who support our student-athletes in ways that are not necessarily apparent to the everyday person. Throughout the academic year, the Council heard presentations from representatives of Sports Nutrition, Athletics Communications, Sports Psychology, and Academic Support.

Council Charge: Dr. Randy Woodson, Chancellor, attended the first meeting of the year to provide the charge to the Council. He noted the unique nature of the NC State Council on Athletics and its role in overseeing academic eligibility for student-athletes. He spoke about the changes facing college athletics as the House case moves towards a settlement. The Chancellor discussed the opportunities that college athletics provide to students, allowing them to study at world-class universities and compete at the highest level of athletics.

Head Coach Guests: During the academic year, the following coaches met with the Council and provided reports on their teams: Rollie Gieger (Men’s Track and Field), Marc Hubbard (Men’s Soccer), Wes Moore (Women’s Basketball), Megan Wargo-Kearney (Volleyball), Gary Higgins (Women’s Soccer), Darby Sligh (Women’s Golf), 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: Lance Patterson (Men’s Track and Field), Patrick Gibbons (Men’s Track and Field), Isaiah Shirley (Football), Aiden Payne (Men’s Soccer), Brooklyn Holt (Women’s Soccer), Taylor Ensley (Softball), Kailee Adomaites (Gymnastics)

Athletics Director Updates: Athletics Director Boo Corrigan and his designees shared and discussed multiple topics with the Council throughout the year. The importance of athletics as part of the university was emphasized, as well as being the best NC State can be. The settlement regarding the House case was also discussed numerous times throughout the year. The performance of our teams throughout the year was highlighted. Also, the effects of ACC expansion on the travel for our teams were mentioned. The changes in college athletics will place additional demands on revenue streams. The department is seeking new ways to generate revenue. These efforts include naming rights, concerts, and changes in donation structures for season tickets.

The Team Behind the Team: A deeper dive into the ways our student-athletes are supported was highlighted this year. The program provided by Sports Psychology was discussed by Rachel Conway, the department's head. This report describes the many ways our psychologists work closely with our student-athletes. Jon Tanguay, Head of Sports Nutrition, showed the comprehensive nature of sports nutrition at NC State. The program includes education, one-on-one consultations, and providing healthy options for fueling the student-athletes. Athletics Communications explained the evolution of the department and the various ways it supports student-athletes. Annabelle Myers explained that the communications department not only provides sports information but also coordinates with television networks, compiles sports history and data, and plans communication strategies for teams. A group from Academic Support for Student-Athletes (ASPSA) attended a meeting to describe the comprehensive academic service for our student-athletes. These services offer academic advising, tutoring, learning support, and guidance for future academic pursuits.

Financial Reporting Updates: Beverly Armwood, Senior Associate AD of Business Operations, reviewed Athletics' budget. The past three years of the budget were reviewed to give context to the growth and changes in the budget. Increases in revenues from the college football playoffs and the expansion of the ACC were mentioned. The new Women's Basketball units provided from the NCAA Tournament will also contribute to the additional revenues. The major capital project taking place is the baseball stadium upgrades. Overall, a growth in spending and revenues was shown for the department.

Academic Updates: Katie Graham, Assistant Vice Chancellor & Senior Associate Athletic Director for Academics, delivered an update on the academic performance of our student-athletes. Mrs. Graham described the national and international nature of our student-athletes. There are students from 35 states and 21 countries represented on our teams. The overall cumulative GPA for the Athletics Department was 3.19. Fifty-seven student-athletes achieved a 4.0 GPA for the Fall 2024 term, and 19 of the 22 teams at NC State had a team GPA above 3.0. The colleges with the highest student-athlete enrollment were the College of Natural Resources (22.5 %), the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (22.5%), and the Poole College of Management (16.0%). The APR Score for NC State is 994, and the GSR is steady at 93%. Assistant Vice Chancellor Graham also provided a report on the Tutoring Assessment that was conducted, noting the results of the assessment and the action items.

Legal and Legislative: There were fewer NCAA legislative issues this year, as many matters are on hold pending the outcome of the House Case. Shawn Troxler provided a number of updates throughout the academic year on the progress of the settlement and the current legal landscape.

Title IX Review: Raymond Harrison, Senior Associate AD of Student Development and Performance, gave an update on Title IX. He discussed the different ways the department can comply with Title IX. Mr. Harrison also mentioned the changes in the gender make-up of the university, with females becoming a majority at NC State in 2024-25. He presented the athletics participation numbers in comparison to the general enrollment numbers. Mr. Harrison presented the anticipated difference in participation numbers if the House case roster limits are implemented. The spending for Men's and Women's sports was also shown. Mr. Harrison spoke about the support for both male and female athletes, emphasizing coaching staff, support staff, facilities, competitive opportunities, and other essential areas.

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee: Jaiden Thomas (Women's Soccer) and Caden Tolentino (Men's Soccer) served as the SACC Presidents for NC State this academic year. Jaiden completed her time at NC State with notable service to the Council during her career. Caden took over as SAAC President for the spring semester. The SAAC Presidents reported on the various activities of SAAC throughout the academic year. Caden proposed the idea of bringing faculty, staff, and student-athletes together. He reported on a student-athlete town hall, where student-athletes had the opportunity to engage in an open discussion with athletics administrators.

Committee Reports:

Faculty Academic Committee (FAC): Chair, Laura Bottomley

The Faculty Academic Committee met numerous times throughout the year to review the continuing academic eligibility of student-athletes. These meetings took place four times throughout the year. These reviews examine the key academic metrics for both the NCAA and the institution. The FAC met several times to discuss the Health and Exercise Studies general education requirement for student-athletes, ways to support student-athletes, and other related issues. There was also extensive discussion regarding the fair treatment of student-athletes in class, ensuring they receive fair treatment in relation to their obligations.

Committee on Student-Athlete Health and Wellness: Chair, Tara Mullins

Tara Mullins met with Tonya Washington at the beginning of the school year to guide the subcommittee in supporting the athletes. Tonya has been pivotal in working with the subcommittee this year. After meeting with Tonya, the subcommittee created goals for the year, which included conducting a Restorative/Mindfulness event for LDOC in the fall, tabling in Case with treats in the spring, assisting with the Wolfies as needed, and finalizing an Arts Menu to be distributed to the coaches.

We successfully conducted a Mindfulness Workshop for SAAC members on December 4th, in collaboration with Tonya and Raymond Harrison. The session began with a Nature Walk facilitated by Joel Pawlak, followed by the workshop, which included trust-building exercises, movement improvisation, a mindfulness journaling and listening exercise, and relaxation and breathing exercises to round it out. Members of the subcommittee provided goods for a small goodie bag and attended the lunch that followed. Although we attempted to conduct another one like it on LDOC in the spring, low enrollment reminded us of the busyness of the end of the school year. In April, the subcommittee hosted a successful baked goods pop-up in Case. Finally, Mullins, as a Council on Athletics representative, served on the Wolfie Award Committee.

Committee on Legislation: Chair, Kanton Reynolds

The chair reported out to the full Council on the ongoing House case settlement. It was also reported that the regular NCAA legislative cycle has stopped, while the House case is being settled. The chair also connected with Carrie Doyle, Senior Associate Athletics Director for Compliance, to see if there were any issues that needed to be addressed. The subcommittee looks forward to addressing any concerns that may arise from the House case settlement in the upcoming academic year.