

**The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
**Faculty Athletics Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting: February 10, 2015**

**Present:**       **Committee Members:** Lissa Broome, Marc Cohen, Carol Folt, Beverly Foster, Paul Friga, Layna Mosley, Andy Perrin, Joy Renner, John Stephens, Deborah Stroman

**Advisors:** Michelle Brown (Director, ASPSA), Bubba Cunningham (Director of Athletics), Vince Ille (Senior Associate Athletics Director)

**Liaison from the Student-Athlete Advisory Council:** Benton Moss

**Guests:** Brent Blanton (ASPSA), Helen Buchanan (Communications and Public Affairs), Andrea Caldwell (Academic Advising), Debbi Clarke (Provost's Office and Student-Athlete Academic Initiative Working Group), Sofia Edelman (Daily Tar Heel), Chris Faison (CCSAC – Minority Male Mentoring & Engagement), William Alexander Hamel (Daily Tar Heel), Lee May (Academic Advising), Spencer Wellborn (Academic Advising), Anne Whisnant (Office of Faculty Governance)

## I. Preparation

Open Forums. The forum on Wednesday, February 25 from 11-1 will be in Wilson Library 504 and will be an informal discussion period. [This forum was cancelled because of weather.] The second forum will be more formal and will be on Tuesday, March 24 from 11-1 in the Toy Lounge of Dey Hall.

SAAC Focus Groups. These will be on March 18, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council. Kim Strom-Gottfried and Paul Friga will circulate a list of issues for guiding the discussion and will be responsible for preparing the report that synthesizes the results of the focus group discussions.

Student-Athlete Academic Initiative Working Group. Joy Renner reminded FAC members to review the Working Group documents related to their topic areas and provide any feedback or questions to Debbi Clarke. In addition, FAC members should review the Working Group materials related to Excused Absences in relation to the moving forward topic – Student and Faculty Relationships.

Minutes. The minutes from the January meeting were approved. Lissa Broome will merge the approved minutes with the attachments related to those minutes and post on the Sakai site as approved minutes.

## II. Advising

Lee May, Associate Dean and Director of Academic Advising in the College of Arts and Sciences, presented a PowerPoint on how Academic Advising works with student-athletes and the academic counselors in ASPSA (attached). Also attached is a chart showing the areas of collaboration between the Academic Advising Program and ASPSA and a document describing the advising protocol for student-athletes returning to Carolina to complete their degrees.

Academic Advising now attempts to interact with each student-athlete once a semester and in the fall semester was able to see 93% of student-athletes. Of those appointments, 75% were held in Loudermilk with the remainder in Steele Building (the main office) or the Hardin Hub (a new satellite office). Student-athletes are the only students with the requirement to meet with advisors each term. The schedules of student-athletes are crowded and present challenges for scheduling these meetings. There was some discussion of whether non-student-athletes should be permitted to schedule advising appointments at Loudermilk. The academic advisers were concerned that this might limit the Loudermilk times available for student-athletes and noted that the Hardin Hub provided a venue that might be convenient for non-student-athletes. There is always a tension between trying to ensure that students and student-athletes are integrated, while recognizing the time demands on student-athletes and trying to utilize their time in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

There is an opportunity to consider whether career guidance could be a substitute for some of the once a semester contacts between advisers and student-athletes. Another opportunity is to refine the advising that is available to student-athletes matriculating off-cycle in January or in Summer Session II. Finally, Lee May noted that it may take several years under the new advising system to see students fully understand the roles and responsibilities of academic advisers and academic counselors.

The challenges for advising are to actually meet each semester with 100% of the student-athletes, continue to clarify the roles of academic advisers (Academic Advising Program) and academic counselors (ASPSA) in a way that student-athletes and others can easily understand, and to be sure that student-athletes are treated fairly in their academic endeavors. Dean May noted that she chairs the grade appeal committee and it had considered a claim by a student-athlete that there had been discrimination against the student in awarding the grade based on the student's status as an athlete. FAC may wish to discuss these challenges when they meet with the Student-Athlete Advisory Council for focus group discussions in March.

Paul Friga agreed that clarification of roles was important and said he found the chart provided by Dean May on collaboration between ASPSA and Academic Advising to be confusing. Others agreed and urged Dean May and Dr. Michelle Brown to consider refining the Venn diagram that had been used in prior years to explain the differences in roles and responsibilities.

The committee discussed the responsibility of the student-athlete and the role of the coaching staff. Dr. Brown said that all football coaches and the ASPSA staff who work with football student-athletes meet once a week to discuss academic issues. In addition, each counselor meets one time a week with the position coach for the students that they work with. Coach Fedora is very involved and he holds each position coach accountable for their students' academic

performance. A similar weekly meeting occurs with Dr. Brown, the academic counselor for men's basketball, and the basketball coaching staff. Women's Basketball also recently started these weekly meetings.

In response to a question about bowl preparation time and its effect on academics, Dr. Brown said that the additional contact between coaches and students and the additional structure provided by bowl practices was helpful. She noted that the beginning of the spring semester was one of the times when there was less contact between the coaches and students because of the time the coaches were spending on recruiting.

Benton Moss said that he meets each semester with his Steele Building advisor and has had relatively little contact with his academic counselor at ASPSA since his first semester at UNC. If his teammates have questions about something related to academics, they will usually consult their academic counselor first. Andrea Caldwell from Academic Advising noted that the academic advisers go to the team meetings at the beginning of each semester and are beginning to develop a relationship with each team. There are five advisers who now work with student-athletes and each student-athlete is assigned to one of the five advisers.

### III. Closed Session

It was moved, seconded, and passed that the committee move into closed session pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-318.11. The chair invited Bubba Cunningham and Benton Moss to remain for the discussion. The committee discussed a recent personnel decision. It was moved, seconded, and passed that the committee return to open session.

### IV. NCAA and ACC Updates – ACC Intra-Conference Transfer

Lissa Broome referred to her written report (attached) on action at the NCAA annual convention approving cost of attendance as an element of the athletic grant-in-aid and issues discussed at recent ACC meetings. She thanked the committee for approving by email the resolution relating to the scheduling of the 2016 ACC Lacrosse Championship in conflict with UNC exams. Notwithstanding our resolution, the championship dates were approved at the ACC meetings.

Lissa Broome and Bubba Cunningham solicited the committee's feedback on proposed changes to the ACC's Intra-Conference Transfer rule. The ACC Intra-Conference Transfer rule applies when a student-athlete from one ACC institution wishes to transfer to another ACC institution. Several elements of the current rule and potential changes were discussed.

- The current rule does not allow the transferring student-athlete to receive athletically related financial aid in the first year following the transfer. FAC supported the proposed change which would permit the student-athlete to receive athletically related financial aid in the first year following a transfer.
- The current rule provides that a student will forfeit a year of eligibility as the result of an intra-conference transfer. The SEC is the only one of the five power conferences that does not have this requirement. A majority of FAC support urging the ACC to eliminate the loss of a year of eligibility.

Lissa Broome and Bubba Cunningham noted that students transferring outside the conference were not subject to these ACC rules. They will also solicit feedback from the SAAC and the coaches before providing feedback to the ACC at the end of February.

FAC members also discussed their desire to provide additional input into ACC and NCAA legislation and rulemaking as well as for UNC to play a leadership role in advancing legislation to enhance the welfare of student-athletes.

#### V. Schedule of Topic Area Discussions

March – Admissions (Andy Perrin and Marc Cohen)

March – Academics (Deb Stroman and Layna Mosley)

April – Student-Athlete Experience (Paul Friga and Kimberly Strom-Gottfried)

In addition, Professor Renner reminded the committee to continue thinking about information needed to inform discussion on student-athlete time commitments.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50.

The next meeting is March 3 at 3:30.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lissa Broome

#### Attachments

- Academic Advising Program PowerPoint
- Chart on Collaboration between AAP and ASPSA
- Advising Protocol for Returning Student-Athletes
- NCAA and ACC Update
- Resolution re ACC Lacrosse Championships
- ACC Intra-Conference Transfer Waiver Draft
- Intra-Conference Transfer Comparison



# ACADEMIC ADVISING PROGRAM AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

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A Partnership in Supporting Student-Athletes



# Academic Advising Program Mission

We partner with students to create meaningful educational plans that are compatible with their career and life goals.

We support a diverse population of undergraduates through an ongoing developmental journey to graduation that empowers them to take responsibility for their education while becoming globally aware, ethical leaders.

# Beginning in the Fall of 2013:

- Academic Advisors received the charge to meet with student-athletes each semester in order to enhance advising services for student-athletes
- A core team of five advisors, led by assistant deans Andrea Caldwell and Spencer Welborn, provide academic advising to student-athletes in the Loudermilk Center
- Student-athletes may see any academic advisor in the Loudermilk Center, Steele Building, and/or Hardin Hall (opened Fall 2014)



# Points of Emphasis for Every Advising Session

- Personal discovery, self-assessment or identity development (Who I am and what I value)
- Educational goals
- Major/minor and career exploration
- Progress toward degree
- Learning abilities and preferences (ASPSA services and resources, Learning Center, Writing Center, Accessibility Resources, Academic Departments & Faculty)

# Advising First Year Students

- Major exploration individually and through Group Advising Workshops
- Academic adjustment
- Understanding UNC Curriculum and tools
- Appropriate course selection
- Campus resources
- Introduction to academic opportunities at UNC

# Advising Sophomores

- Clarifying areas of study & major/minor declarations
- Connecting with faculty
- Focus on initial career exploration
- Admission to professional schools (10% of student-athletes)
- Identify one or two high impact opportunities

# Advising Juniors

- Enhancing connections with major departments
- Career exploration and development
- Connections with Pre-Grad, Pre-Law, and Pre-Health advisors
- Intentionality of progress toward degree
- Explore internship possibilities

# Advising Seniors

- Complete and communicate senior reviews
- Making connections with graduate programs and potential employers
- Life discussions—What's next? Starting somewhere and moving anywhere!

# Highlights

- Creation of Policy for Returning Students
- Cross-training for new academic counselors and bi-weekly updates with ASPSA staff
- Enhanced reporting/tracking of student advising appointments & working with counselors to fill student appointments
- Advising Blitzes to see large numbers of students during high pre-registration traffic
- Enhanced communication for counselors & advisors via Advisor Notes
- Seeing students in three locations

# Some Results

- Fall 2013 – 72.4% of student-athletes\* met with advisors
- Spring 2014 – 91% of student-athletes\* met with advisors
- Fall 2014 – 93.4% of student-athletes\* met with advisors

\*College of Arts & Sciences Students

# Opportunities

- Continue to align and advance existing advising and support programs for student-athletes, further integrating the delivery of academic and career advising to include intensive and early attention to major exploration and post-college opportunities
- Enhance student advising/orientation services for students entering UNC in July and January
- A four year cohort will significantly affect culture change for academic services



# Challenges

- All students scheduling appointments
- Clarifying roles of advisors and counselors for students and others on campus
- Treatment of student-athletes

# Our Partnership



## Student responsibilities:

- Seek advice regularly
- Ask questions
- Make informed decisions
- Understand policies & deadlines
- Seek academic help early

## Advisor & Counselor responsibilities:

- Be available
- Ask questions, learn about students
- Suggest options
- Clarify policies
- Make information available
- Refer to campus resources

## Both:

- Prepare for advising meetings
- Keep appointments
- Read and respond to email

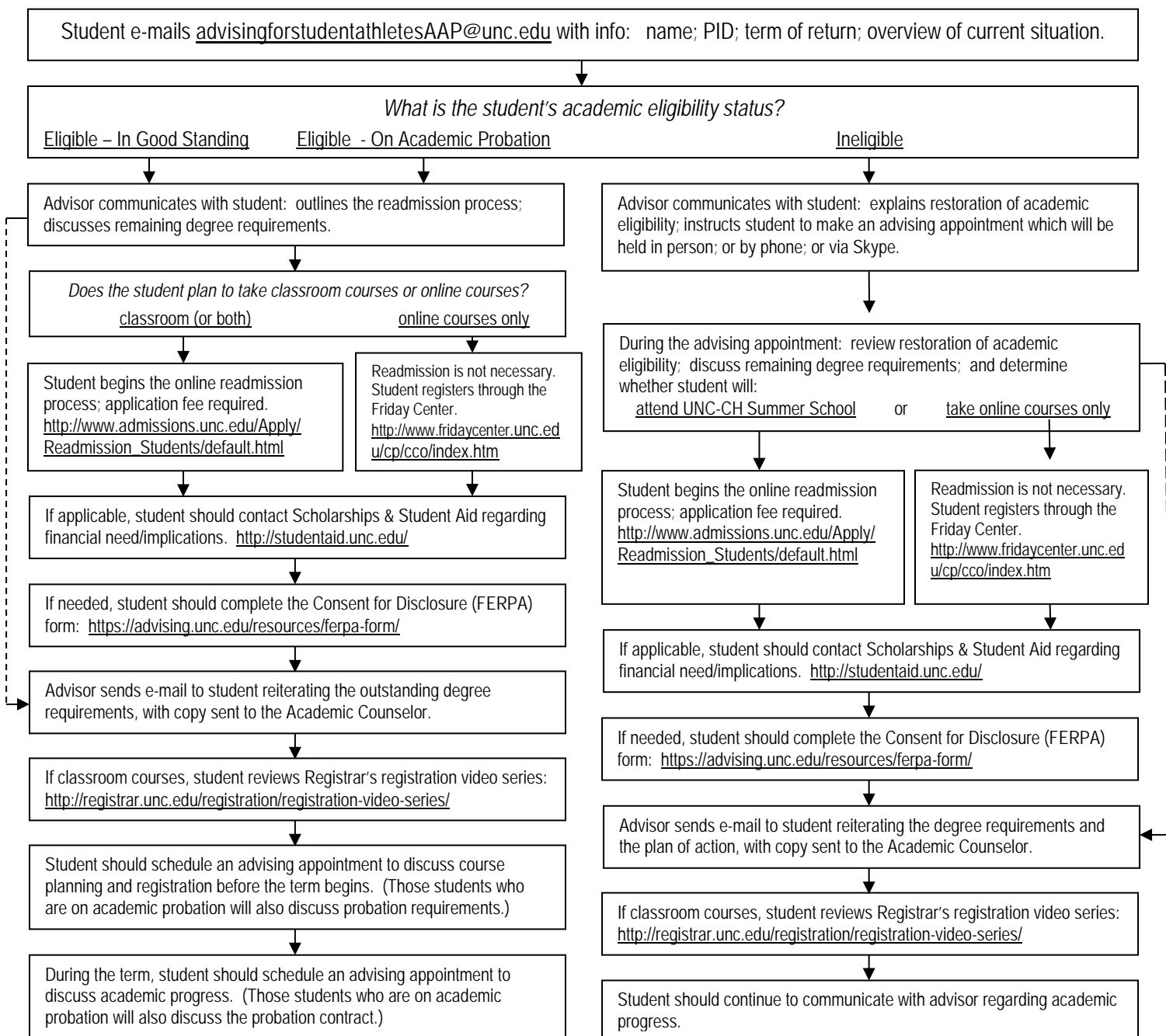
## Collaboration of Academic Advising Program & Academic Support Program for Student-Athletes:

### A Partnership for Student Success

<b>Academic Advising Program</b>	<b>Student Support</b>	<b>Academic Support Program</b>
Empower students for all aspects of academic planning from orientation to graduation	Partner for student success	Holistic support of the student-athlete academic experience
<p><b>Advisors:</b></p> <p>Communicate information about the curriculum and University academic policies and procedures</p> <p>Meet with students every semester to assist in course planning appropriate to students' academic plans and career goals</p> <p>Teach students how to monitor degree progress of general education curriculum and chosen majors/minors</p> <p>Conduct Group Advising/Major Exploration Workshops with academic departments</p> <p>Connect students with faculty to understand opportunities in major departments and in preparation for future goals</p> <p>Provide transactional academic services such as major/minor declaration, course adds/drops, exam excuses, and appeals for academic exceptions</p> <p>Conduct and communicate senior reviews in preparation for final coursework and graduation clearance</p>	<p><b>Advisors and Counselors:</b></p> <p>Cross-train and share information between departments</p> <p>Participate in New Student Orientation</p> <p>Assist students with major/minor exploration and initial course planning</p> <p>Refer students to campus resources for student success such as career services, learning center, writing center, study abroad, undergraduate research</p> <p>Support students on Academic Probation</p>	<p><b>Counselors:</b></p> <p>Communicate academic expectations and support services to prospective student-athletes and families</p> <p>Provide academic support services including tutoring, and academic counselor &amp; learning specialist sessions</p> <p>Coordinate the My Academic Plan (MAP) program structuring students' approach to studying for identified students</p> <p>Assist students with their academic engagement and career exploration</p> <p>Communicate with faculty to obtain feedback on students' academic progress</p> <p>Monitor degree progress according to UNC and NCAA eligibility requirements</p> <p>Compile student and team academic data for internal and external reporting and monitoring</p> <p>Coordinate the nomination and submission of academic awards and scholarships</p>

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## Returning Student Athlete Advising Protocol



**To be Eligible – In Good Standing, student needs cumulative UNC-CH GPA of 2.000 and the following cumulative academic credit hrs passed:**

**(including any transferred semesters)**

to enter the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester:  
to enter the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester:  
to enter the 4<sup>th</sup> semester:  
to enter the 5<sup>th</sup> semester:  
to enter the 6<sup>th</sup> semester:  
to enter the 7<sup>th</sup> semester:  
to enter the 8<sup>th</sup> semester:  
to enter the 9<sup>th</sup> semester:

**(including any transferred hrs and By-Exam credits, but not PHYA hrs)**

must have 9 hours passed  
must have 24 hours passed  
must have 36 hours passed  
must have 51 hours passed  
must have 63 hours passed  
must have 78 hours passed  
must have 93 hours passed  
permission for additional semester is required



NCAA Legislative Action at Annual Convention  
Autonomy Conferences  
January 17, 2015

1. ACC representation
  - a. More presidents than any other conference
  - b. 3 student-athletes from each conference cast votes for a total of 15 student-athlete votes and 65 conference school votes
2. Legislation is in the folder for the January meeting – Legislative actions (in order of significance)
  - a. Proposal 2014-13 -- Cost of Attendance -- passed
    - i. Amended by 2014-13-1 (Student Assistance Fund) – all other amendments failed
  - b. Proposal 2014-15 – No Athletics Reasons in Reduction or Nonrenewal After Period of Award – passed
  - c. Proposal 2014-11 – Concussion Safety Protocol – passed
  - d. Proposal 2014-12 – Insurance Against Loss of Value – passed
  - e. Resolution R-2014-1 – Resolution regarding an array of potential future legislative areas – passed
3. Cost of attendance legislation is effective August 1, 2015 and awards may be executed prior to then.

ACC Winter Meetings  
January 29-30, 2015

1. Weaver-James-Corrigan Post-Graduate Scholarships Approved
  - a. Each institution may award up to three scholarships based academics, athletics, community service, and plans to attend graduate school. The \$5,000 award may be used within 5 years.
    - i. Gillian Izabelle Litynski, Fender
    - ii. Cameron Elizabeth Overstreet, Women's Track and Field
    - iii. Loren Norris Shealy, Field Hockey
    - iv. Honorary Award – Thomas Benton Moss, Baseball
2. Intra-Conference Transfer Waiver Proposal
  - a. Each institution to provide feedback to the ACC by the end of February
  - b. Permit transferring student to receive athletics aid in the first year (current rule does not permit athletics aid during the first year after the transfer)
  - c. Do not charge the transferring student with one of four seasons of eligibility (current rule is lose a year of eligibility as a result of the transfer)
  - d. Maintain ACC and NCAA rule that transferring student may practice but not compete in the first year after the transfer (sit a year)
  - e. Waivers may be granted by the FARs

- i. Standard will still be extraordinary circumstances to waive the application of the rule, but do not require that the personal hardship necessitates a transfer to another ACC institution.
  - ii. Modify voting requirement to provide that a successful waiver requires a vote of 2/3rds of those present and voting but not fewer than half of the member institutions.
- 3. 2016 Men's and Women's Lacrosse ACC Championship Dates
  - a. Approved (8-3-3) two weeks before start of NCAA tournament (from three weeks prior), which creates a conflict with the UNC final exam schedule.
  - b. FAC resolution considered but not persuasive
  - c. Three principles were articulated around which there seemed to be widespread agreement
    - i. Avoid final exam conflicts where doing so does not significantly impact competitive issues
    - ii. Institutions should consider whether at risk student-athletes should participate in an event that conflicts with an exam
    - iii. Institutions should have robust exam rescheduling policies to assist student-athletes with exam conflicts because of ACC or NCAA competition conflicts
- 4. Progress Towards Degree Requirements and Students with by examination credit
  - a. Our ACC representative to the Committee on Academics will ask for this to be added to the Committee's agenda so that students don't have to rely on receiving a waiver of the PTD requirement.
- 5. Best Practices Discussions
  - a. Who has the power to hire and fire the head of Academic Support for Student-Athletes?
    - i. At 4 ACC schools it is the AD
    - ii. At 4 other ACC schools it is the Provost
    - iii. At the remaining 7 ACC schools, the decision is made jointly by the AD and Provost
  - b. Contact between coaches and faculty
    - i. Communication is encouraged, except not about grades
    - ii. Guest coaching
    - iii. Academic banquet
    - iv. Teach faculty to talk with academic support staff (rather than coaches) if there is an issue with a student-athlete
    - v. Have a Faculty Associates Program (similar to our faculty liaisons)
    - vi. President hosts a luncheon where faculty members and coaches intermingle
    - vii. Teams have a faculty appreciation day and each player selects one faculty member to honor at the game
  - c. Contact between academic support staff and faculty
    - i. Call faculty to see if have someone would recommend to tutor their subject
    - ii. Academic services has frequent contact with faculty regarding progress in class



6. Sale of alcohol at ACC Championship neutral sites will be studied further.
7. A subcommittee of coaches will be formed to study issues related to early recruitment.
8. ACC governance related to autonomy proposals now done through the 5-5-5 committee.
  - a. Will work on better communication by each committee's representative to others on that campus
  - b. Will consider whether to formalize the committee's structure and appointment process through ACC by-laws
  - c. Subcommittees will continue to be populated by those with relevant expertise
9. ACC is still finalizing its recommendations regarding the role of student-athletes in ACC governance
  - a. Also need to consider how to integrate 3 ACC student-athletes with a vote into the ACC SAAC

**Resolution of the Faculty Athletics Committee  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

**Whereas,** the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) is considering moving the ACC Men's and Women's Lacrosse Championships from a weekend three weeks before the first round of the NCAA Championship to a weekend two weeks before the first round of the NCAA Championship so as to "allow teams to maintain consistent training patterns" by reducing the time between the Conference Championship and the first round of the NCAA Championship;

**Whereas,** this proposed move creates a conflict with the final exam schedule of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC);

**Whereas,** retaining the ACC Lacrosse Championships on the weekend three weeks before the first round of the NCAA Championships would avoid the conflict with UNC's exam schedule, although the University of Louisville would have a conflict with its exam dates for its women's team under either schedule;

**Now, Therefore, We Resolve that:** In making decisions regarding the scheduling of ACC Championships, priority should be given to avoiding conflicts with final examination schedules over athletics or competitive reasons. Therefore, we call upon the ACC to retain the ACC Championships for both Men's and Women's Lacrosse at the time that minimizes final exam conflicts.

Adopted: January 26, 2015

## **ACC Intra-Conference Transfer Rule**

### **Subcommittee Update – January 2015**

#### **Summary**

After two conference calls, the subcommittee appointed to review the ACC intra-conference rules recommends the following changes:

- Allow intra-conference transfers to receive financial aid in the year immediately following the transfer (pending applicable NCAA rules).
- Change the threshold for a waiver of the intra-conference rules to specify that waivers must demonstrate extraordinary circumstances warranting relief from the normal application of the rule. However, the rule would not require that the personal hardship necessitates a transfer to another ACC institution. The standard is intended to convey that waivers must meet a “high bar” and are not expected to be frequently approved.
- Modify the voting requirement to specify that a successful waiver requires a vote of two-thirds of those present and voting on a waiver but not fewer than half of the member institutions.

In addition, the subcommittee is requesting feedback on the following:

- Remove the season of competition penalty currently applied to intra-conference transfers and intra-conference NLI signees.

#### **Next Steps**

Following the report of the committee’s recommendations at the Winter Meeting, institutional representatives should discuss the potential changes with constituents on their campus, including coaches, administrators, and student-athletes. Feedback should be submitted to the conference office not later than Friday, February 27. The subcommittee will reconvene by conference call in March with a final recommendation and decision expected at the April or May meeting.

#### **Report**

After the October 2014 conference meetings, a subcommittee of FARs, ADs, and SWAs was established to evaluate the ACC’s intra-conference transfer bylaw (and intra-conference NLI bylaw) and to develop recommended revisions for consideration by the Joint governance group. Given the emphasis on student-athlete well-being and recent changes to the conference membership, it was agreed that a review of intra-conference policies is appropriate at this time. The subcommittee conducted two conference calls in fall 2014 to discuss various aspects of the conference bylaws. This document is intended to provide a summary of the subcommittee’s deliberations.

### Intra-Conference Rule

The current ACC intra-conference transfer rule requires that a student-athlete who transfers directly between ACC institutions:

- 1) Must complete an academic year in residence before becoming eligible for competition or athletics aid at the second institution; and
- 2) Is charged one of the four seasons of eligibility for competition.

The student-athlete is permitted to practice in accordance with NCAA eligibility rules. The intra-conference NLI rule requires a year in residence before competition and the season of competition penalty, but does not affect the student-athlete's opportunity to receive athletics aid in the initial year.

The subcommittee noted that the intra-conference transfer rule is historically based on a desire to promote competitive equity and to discourage "tampering" or "poaching" of student-athletes within the conference. Therefore, the rule is applied to a broad spectrum of student-athletes, including any student-athlete who was recruited by the first institution, the athletics department interceded in the admissions process, or received athletics financial aid during the year immediately prior to the transfer. Subcommittee members noted that a less restrictive rule based on student-athlete success and well-being may be more appropriate for the current environment.

The subcommittee identified three principles to guide the evaluation of the intra-conference transfer rule:

- 1) Student-athlete well-being;
- 2) The educational mission of each member institution; and
- 3) Competitive equity and mutual respect.

Based on these principles, the subcommittee recommends that an intra-conference transfer be permitted to receive athletics financial aid in the year immediately following transfer. The receipt of financial aid immediately following transfer facilitates access to higher education, allows a student-athlete to make academic progress and helps prioritize academic achievement. NCAA rules require a transfer student-athlete to receive permission to contact from the previous institution in order to be eligible for financial aid during the initial year of attendance at the second institution. Also, athletics aid provided to a transfer fulfilling a year in residence is countable against the team's annual limit; therefore, no competitive advantage is gained by allowing the receipt of aid.

The subcommittee did not reach consensus on whether to eliminate the one season of competition penalty for intra-conference transfers and intra-conference NLI signees, and is interested in additional feedback on the concept. Some group members felt this flexibility would not discourage intra-conference recruiting, while others expressed concern that not charging the season could unintentionally create a more restrictive environment for student-athletes if it becomes more likely that the original institution would not grant permission to contact or the one-time transfer exception. One potential

alternative is to require consent of the previous institution in order to waive the charged season of competition, and for the penalty to apply when the previous institution does not support the transfer.

The subcommittee agreed to maintain the required year in residence at the second conference institution before the student-athlete is eligible for competition, even when the student-athlete meets an exception to the NCAA transfer rule. This provision applies to both intra-conference transfers and NLI signees, and is intended to encourage academic success and promote respect and collegiality between conference members.

Further, it was noted that student-athletes for whom the institution assisted in the admissions process, but were not recruited and are not receiving athletics aid, are currently subject to the intra-conference transfer rule. Such student-athletes are infrequent and unlikely to provide a significant competitive advantage. Therefore, they should not be discouraged from transferring or required to serve a year in residence if NCAA transfer bylaws are satisfied. Therefore, the intra-conference transfer rule should only apply to student-athletes who were recruited by the original institution or received athletics aid in the year immediately preceding the transfer.

If these recommendations are supported, an intra-conference transfer (recruited and/or received athletics aid from the first institution) and an intra-conference NLI signee would be required to fulfill an academic year in residence at the new institution prior to being eligible for competition. However, the student-athlete would be immediately eligible for an athletics scholarship (subject to applicable NCAA bylaws and NLI policies). Draft language for new intra-conference transfer and intra-conference NLI policies is included at the end of this document.

### Intra-Conference Waivers

#### *Waiver Standard*

To complement a more flexible rule, the group discussed retaining a stringent waiver process. However, there was concern that the current standard unintentionally incentivizes student-athletes to consider non-ACC institutions when looking to transfer since the circumstances must necessitate that the student-athlete transfer to the second ACC institution. Concern was also expressed that “extraordinary personal hardship” may not be the exact description of circumstances that would warrant immediate eligibility. A new waiver standard should be focused on the well-being of the student-athlete and the rationale for changing institutions.

During the subcommittee’s conference calls, there was a preference for easy-to-understand waiver criteria that continue to allow consideration of waivers on a case-by-case basis. The group also wanted to move away from specifying that the circumstances require that the student-athlete transfer to the second ACC institution.

While it is not feasible to predict every potential scenario, it is desirable to create a waiver standard that establishes a “high bar” for relief but also provides the FARs with appropriate discretion to grant a waiver when extraordinary circumstances warrant relief from the normal application of the legislation. Inherent in this high standard is that mutual agreement between the involved institutions is not sufficient for a successful waiver. It is also assumed that the student-athlete must be otherwise eligible for competition under NCAA, ACC and institutional policies.

A potential waiver standard could be:

“Waivers of this rule may be considered when an institution presents objective evidence that demonstrates extraordinary circumstances warranting relief from the normal application of the rule. It is intended that waivers meet a high threshold and it is not anticipated that waivers will frequently be approved.” [Note: It is assumed that the intra-conference transfer and intra-conference NLI waiver language will both be revised so that they continue to match.]

These guidelines are less prescriptive than the current bylaw, allowing the waiver committee to use its judgment in evaluating whether a waiver is appropriate (e.g., whether the student-athlete was recruited by the second institution), but also clearly indicates that extraordinary circumstances are necessary for a waiver to be approved. A review of waiver guidelines for other conferences shows a similar ambiguity and deference for the waiver body to make the appropriate decision.

#### *Voting Threshold*

The ACC Constitution currently requires that two-thirds of the member institutions (10 institutions) vote affirmatively, regardless of the number of institutions participating in the meeting or call. This requirement can be particularly challenging when not all institutions participate in the review of a waiver, and would require a unanimous vote if a meeting or call just met the conference quorum requirements.

During the October meeting, the FARs expressed a preference for requiring that at least a majority of the member institutions (8 or more) vote in favor of a waiver for it to be successful. One option to maintain a relatively high threshold for relief would require that a waiver be approved by two-thirds of the FARs present and voting and not less than a majority of the member institutions. This would specify that no fewer than 8 votes would be needed for a waiver to be approved. This option would keep the quorum requirement of 10 institutions, and allow all institutions, including the requesting institution, to vote on the waiver.

## Draft Policy Language

### ACC Intra-Conference Transfer Rule

A student-athlete who transfers directly to ~~afrom one~~ Conference institution ~~fromto~~ another Conference institution and who was recruited by the first institution from which they are transferring, for whom the athletics department interceded in the admissions process, or who received any athletically related financial aid during the academic year immediately prior to the transfer is required to complete one (1) academic year (two full semesters or three full quarters) of residence at the certifying Conference institution before being eligible ~~to compete for or to receive athletically related financial aid from for~~ competition at the certifying institution. Such an academic year of residency shall count as one of the student-athlete's four (4) permissible seasons of competition permitted under NCAA legislation. During ~~such a~~ the year of residence, the student-athlete is permitted to practice pursuant to NCAA ~~eligibility rules regarding practice eligibility~~. A transfer student-athlete admitted after the twelfth day of class may not utilize that semester or quarter for the purpose of establishing residence.

a. ~~Graduation~~ Graduate Student Exception. A student-athlete who receives a baccalaureate degree at one member institution and who has been admitted into a graduate degree program at another member institution may transfer to another member institution without being subject to the intra-conference transfer rule. NCAA transfer regulations would apply. (Revised: February 2006)

a-b. Waivers. Waivers of this rule may be considered by the faculty athletics representatives, acting as a committee of the whole, provided the student-athlete ~~has qualified for an exception or waiver of the NCAA four-year college transfer rule is otherwise immediately eligible for competition at the second institution. Further, t~~ The waiver request must demonstrate objective evidence that proves the student-athlete's extraordinary personal hardship necessitates the transfer to another Conference institution include objective evidence that demonstrates circumstances warranting relief from the normal application of the rule. (Revised: October 2008)

### ACC Intra-Conference National Letter of Intent Rule

An individual who signs a valid National Letter of Intent with a Conference institution and does not satisfy the one-year attendance requirement or the junior college graduation provision of the National Letter of Intent may not represent another Conference institution in intercollegiate athletics competition until the individual has completed one (1) full academic year of residence at the latter Conference institution and shall be charged with the loss of one (1) season of eligibility in all sports. An individual receiving a complete release per Item 6 of the National Letter of Intent may not represent another Conference institution in intercollegiate athletics competition until the individual has completed one full academic year at the latter Conference institution and shall be charged with the loss of one season of eligibility in all sports.

a. ~~Waivers~~. Waivers of the rule must ~~demonstrate objective evidence that proves the student-athlete's extraordinary personal hardship necessitates the transfer to another Conference institution~~ include objective evidence that demonstrates circumstances warranting relief from the normal application of the rule. These

waivers may be considered by the faculty athletics representatives, acting as a committee of the whole, only after all appeals to the National Letter of Intent Steering Committee and the National Letter of Intent Appeals Committee have been processed. (Revised: April 2007, October 2008)

Waiver Voting Requirement

An approved waiver of the ACC initial eligibility rule, the intra-conference transfer rule, the intra-conference national letter of intent rule, and/or medical hardship waivers requires an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the institutions present and voting on the waiver and not less than a majority of the member institutions. All members, including the institution requesting the waiver, are eligible to vote. (Revised: October 2011)

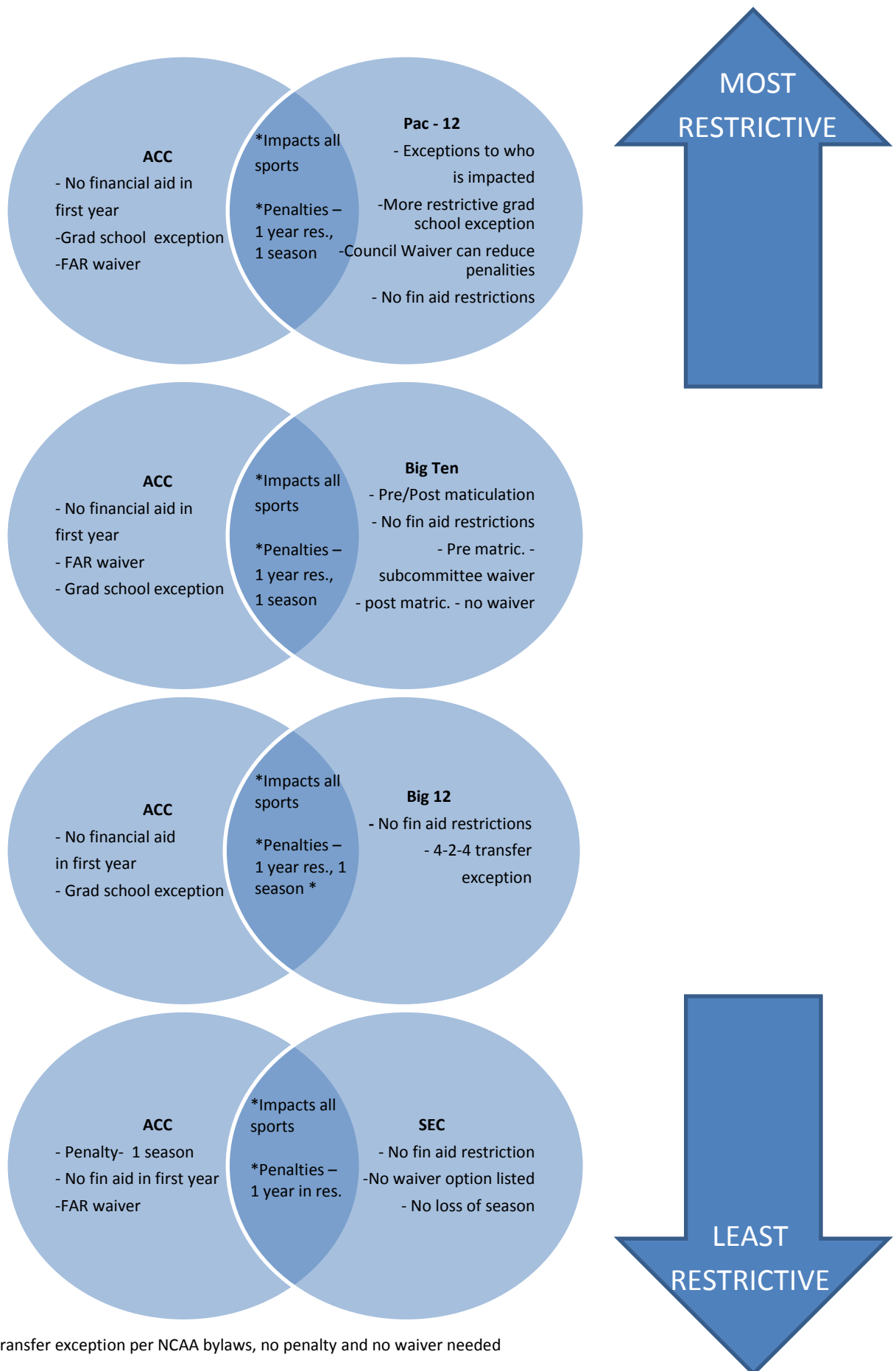


## COMPARISON OF INTRA-CONFERENCE TRANSFER POLICIES

Conference	Sports Affected	Exceptions	Penalties	Athletic Aid Restrictions	Waiver Provisions
ACC	<p>In all sports, if:</p> <p>SA was recruited, OR Athletics Dept was involved in the admissions process, OR SA received aid in the year prior to transfer.</p> <p>NLI rule – A SA who signs an NLI and does not complete 1 full AY OR must met the JC graduation provision, will be subject to the intra-conference transfer penalty.</p>	<p>Grad School Exception:</p> <p>A SA who receives a BA degree at one member institution and has been admitted into a graduate program at another ACC institution may transfer to another ACC institution without being subject to the intra-conference transfer rule. NCAA transfer regulations would apply.</p>	<p>No competition one year. Charged one season.</p> <p>(If Mutual Release received, no competition one year and charged one season in all sports. These penalties may be fulfilled concurrently with intra-conference transfer penalty above.)</p>	<p>No aid first year.</p>	<p>Waiver considered if qualifies for NCAA transfer exception/waiver.</p> <p>Other rationale considered: nonrenewal of athletic aid at previous ACC institution; dropped sport or acad. major; no practice/comp at conference institution. Faculty committee has authority to waive.</p> <p>Waivers considered only after all NLI appeals are processed.</p>
Big Ten	<p>A. Pre-Matriculation: Signed NLI &amp; enrolls at alternate Big Ten institution (Rule does not apply if complete NLI release is granted or NLI declared Null &amp; Void)</p> <p>B. Post Matriculation. SA has signed a tender from a Conference institution and has triggered transfer status per NCAA Bylaw 14.5.2.</p>		<p>A. Complete one full AY of residence and lose one season of eligibility in all sports.</p> <p>B. Complete one full AY of residence and lose one season of eligibility.</p>		<p>A. Pre-Matriculation : Upon mutual agreement of the two involved institutions, this penalty may be waived by the Chair of the Academics and Eligibility Subcommittee for a PSA that signs a valid tender without NLI.</p> <p>B. No waiver.</p>
Big 12	<p>In all sports (direct and indirect transfers):</p> <p>For those SAs who are required to complete an AY in residence per NCAA rules (e.g., do not meet an NCAA transfer exception).</p>	<p>4-2-4 transfers: In sports other than FB and BB, if a 4-2-4 transfer meets NCAA academic requirements per 14.5.6, no penalty if the first institution's AD consents in writing to the SA's enrollment at the second institution.</p>	<p>Must sit a year in residence and charged one season.</p> <p>(*Meets one time transfer exception per NCAA bylaws, no penalty and no waiver needed)</p>		<p>FAR have waiver authority under compelling, extenuating circumstances.</p>
Pac-12	<p>Applicable to: SA in all sports that transfer directly from another conference institution.</p>	<p>Not applicable to: direct transfers that</p> <p>(a) were not recruited by and did not receive athletics aid from the first conference institution; or</p> <p>(b) were recruited by and did not receive athletics or institutional aid from the first conference institution; or</p> <p>(c) are 4-2-4 transfers.</p>	<p>Residence Requirement: Cannot compete for one AY. Season(s) of Competition: Charged with one season of competition.</p>		<p>FAR Committee may reduce any penalties for the following SAs:</p> <p>(1) a recruited SA who received non-athletics institutional aid at the first institution; (2) an SA whose transfer is based in part on the non-renewal of financial aid by the first institution; (3) a graduate SA who received athletics aid at the first institution but was not recruited by and is not receiving athletics aid from the second institution; (4) a SA whose petition is supported by the first conference institution.</p>
SEC	<p>Applies to any SA who transfers from one SEC member institution to another SEC member institution.</p>		<p>Must serve one AY in residence.</p>		

<b>Conference</b>	<b>1 year in residence required</b>	<b>Lose 1 season of competition</b>	<b>Receive Financial aid in AY in res</b>	<b>Waivers</b>	<b>Voting Requirements</b>
<b>ACC</b>	yes	yes	no	yes	2/3 vote (10 votes)
<b>Big Ten</b>	yes	yes	yes	yes	Simple majority
<b>Big 12</b>	yes*	yes*	yes	yes	7= quorum 6 votes needed for approval
<b>Pac-12</b>	yes	yes	yes	yes	3/4 majority (9 votes)
<b>SEC</b>	yes	no	yes	no	Majority

\*Meets one time transfer exception per NCAA bylaws, no penalty and no waiver needed



\*Meets one time transfer exception per NCAA bylaws, no penalty and no waiver needed