

Faculty Athletics Committee Annual Report to the Faculty Council
November 15, 2013

This annual report on the activities of the Faculty Athletics Committee (FAC) during the 2012-2013 academic year was prepared by FAC Chair Joy Renner.

Overview of Committee's Purpose and Structure

Charge: "The Faculty Athletics Committee is concerned with informing the faculty and advising the chancellor on any aspect of athletics, including, but not limited to, the academic experience for varsity athletes, athletic opportunities for members of the University committee, and the general conduct and operation of the University's athletic program" (Faculty Code § 4-7[b]).

Members 2012-13:

Term expires 2013: Glynis S. Cowell, Romance Languages; Joy J. Renner, Allied Health Sciences. Eileen Parsons, Education

Term expires 2014: John Stephens, School of Government; Barbara Osborne, Exercise and Sports Sciences; Beverly Foster, School of Nursing

Term expires 2015: Gene Orringer, School of Medicine; Layna Mosley, Political Science; Andrew Perrin, Sociology

Lissa Broome served as Faculty Athletics Representative to the ACC and the NCAA, 2010-2011 and thus served as an *ex officio* member of the FAC. Director of Athletics Lawrence Cunningham, Senior Associate Athletic Director Vince Ille, Director of the Center for Student Success & Academic Counseling Harold Woodard, and Director of Sports Medicine Mario Ciocca regularly attend the FAC's meetings and interacted with the FAC to seek advice or provide information. Chancellor Thorp attends FAC meetings as his schedule permits.

Meetings: The FAC held 8 monthly meetings during the 2012-13 academic year and held a half day retreat in May. No matters were referred to the FAC from the Faculty Council, but we did provide Faculty Council with monthly reports on the restructuring and activities of FAC. All meetings were open and the Committee was pleased to have additional faculty as well as media join us.

Chair: Joy J. Renner, Clinical Associate Professor, Allied Health Sciences, Director of the Division of Radiologic Science served as FAC Chair and was re-elected to serve as FAC Chair for 2013-2014. As Chair, Professor Renner attended meetings of the ASPSA Advisory Committee, the Title IX Committee, Athletics Department Drug Policy Review Committee, Athletics Council, Student Athlete Advisory Council, Search Committee for the ASPSA Director, and multiple individual meetings with groups and individuals involved with our students participating in sports.

Annual Report

For comprehensive coverage of information regarding the activities of FAC for 2012 – 2013, the minutes of the nine meetings are the most appropriate source. This report will provide an overview of the Committee's year.

Defining and developing roles for members of the Committee

In an effort to develop a sustainable and comprehensive role for this Committee to fulfill its charge, more structure and guidance was provided to the members.

Each member is responsible for representing three perspectives while in our Committee meetings. The obvious one is the perspective of a UNC faculty member. The second one is to become the topic expert in one area of athletics, lending a more thorough analysis of that topic and bringing issues or concerns or suggestions for the Committee to discuss. The third perspective is representing members of the various teams. Each faculty member was assigned to specific teams to become familiar with their schedules and the culture and philosophy of the teams.

Team Perspective

This is an evolving role that was discussed at the end of year retreat to set the minimum connections that would be made and if time permitted, more connections with the team could be made. The coaches and students are also still getting used to the idea of having a faculty member liaison to the Committee. We anticipate this role providing healthy input into the Committee's discussion as there is time to flesh out how this will work.

Team Assignments:

Renner – Football Men's basketball

Cowell – Football baseball

Perrin – Men's basketball and Gymnastics

Parsons – Women's basketball women's tennis men's tennis

Osborne – Field hockey men's soccer softball

Foster – Swimming and Diving and wrestling

Mosley – Women's soccer track and field

Stephens – Fencing men's golf women's golf volleyball

Orringer – women's lacrosse men's lacrosse rowing

Topics Experts

Topic leaders would seek out information and have meetings with pertinent individuals or groups to bring a higher level of understanding to the Committee on their topics than would be possible for everyone on the Committee to do. Division Athletics at a Research University is very complex and requires an appropriate amount of attention paid to all the aspects to insure a broad and encompassing understanding so changes or solutions may be proposed that may have good intent but unintended outcomes.

Topic Assignments:

Foster

Admissions

Advising

Mosley (new member)

Admissions

Perrin (new member)

Academics

Cowell

Academics

Student Athlete Experience

Parsons

Advising

Policies and Procedures

Stephens

Student Athlete Experience

Administration & Operations

Osborne

Policies and Procedures

Student Athlete Experience

Orringer

Administration and Operations

Our Work

Each meeting included information sharing or input seeking from the Chancellor, the Athletics Director, and the Faculty Athletics Representative.

September – Organizational year planning; Review of reports submitted and that would be completed over the course of the year; Overview of Athletics Department Strategic Plan

October – Student Athlete Experience discussion

November – APR/GSR/FGR reports; development of team liaison role; process for student athlete experience assessment

December – Admissions – from the minutes “Steve Farmer commented that looking at student-athletes in tiers (began in 2012 with the PGPA) would over time improve the academic profile of student-athletes as the goal over time is to reduce the number of Level 1 and Level 2 students. He also noted that from 2005 to 2012 the composition of the distribution of students reviewed by the committee had changed as the percentage of students from revenue sports considered by the committee had declined, while the committee was seeing additional students from non-revenue sports.”

January – Continued admissions discussion; discussed questions from the Athletics Reform Group; Martin Baker-Tilly report

February – Advising and Academic Support for Student Athletes

March – continued discussion of the Academic Support for Student Athletes program; Student Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) focus group discussions

April – Academics - reviewed a report on majors of student-athletes, noting that the two most popular majors were Exercise and Sports Science and Communications Studies. In the future, data will be reported on the majors of all students (not just those in the College of Arts & Sciences) for comparison purposes. Data was also presented on course clustering. There was some clustering noted in First Year Seminars, although the topics covered in those seminars seemed to be those that would naturally appeal to student-athletes. Training regarding plagiarism provided to students generally and to student-athletes in particular was also discussed; also discussed a resolution that the Athletics Reform Group planned to present to the Faculty Council to ask for no school night football games (home or away) The committee endorsed a response that urged Faculty Council to oppose the motion based on the ACC’s contractual commitments to ESPN and the fact that the University had worked successfully with the ACC to ensure no school night home Thursday night games.

May – Plans for instructional materials for faculty and graduate teaching assistants related to athletics on campus; logistics for 2013- 2014; Review of sports medicine at UNC for our student participating in athletics; ASPSA tutoring program; roles and responsibilities at FAC at UNC; Reviewed progress made in the areas of Student Athlete Experience, Advising, Academics, Admissions, Operations, and Policies and Procedures and the a discussion of:

Opportunities and Direction for 2013-14 and Beyond

For FAC.

- 1) Prepare a video for faculty on what they need to know if they have student-athletes in their class. Prepare a written summary of this same information. Make other resources available that may be helpful.

- 2) Prepare a list of all majors and identify a faculty member from each major willing to interface with Academic Advisors for student-athletes and prospective student-athletes wishing to learn more about the about the major
- 3) Advise the Chancellor and inform the faculty in response to any recommendations from the Rawlings Panel, perhaps in a “Beyond Compliance” Forum
- 4) Consider preparing a presentation for departmental meetings regarding truths or myths about student-athletes. This might also be an opportunity to show or refer to the video described above.
- 5) Work with the Department of Athletics on its strategic plan priority of aligning the operations of the Department to fulfill the mission of the University and the related goals identified in the strategic plan
- 6) Arrange for SAAC focus group discussions and consider other opportunities for feedback from student-athletes.
- 7) Learn about the new academic advising being provided for student-athletes and develop feedback for improvement
- 8) Continue to monitor majors and course enrollments, including both summer sessions
- 9) Refer to the ASPSA Faculty Advisory Committee for consideration and report back on guidance for how ASPSA should respond to faculty members’ use of ASPSA to recruit students for summer school courses
- 10) Continue to monitor sports schedules regarding missed class time and understand impact of fall track and cross-country missed class time for students participating in both sports
- 11) Learn more about career path guidance for student-athletes.
- 12) Provide input for discussion at the Provost’s Roundtable regarding interplay of admissions, academic support, and resources necessary for academic support.
- 13) Continue to receive reports on Athletics Department revenues and expenses and understand the comparative data on support provided to ASPSA
- 14) Consider proposing clarification to the University’s excused absence policy reported in the Undergraduate Bulletin. Professor Broome explained that the policy recognizes three categories of excused absences: (1) representing the University; (2) religious observance; and (3) other excuses accepted by the faculty member (e.g., illness or death in the family). The policy has been amended over the years and needs to be rewritten to make it clearer. There are repeated issues with faculty members saying to student-athletes and other students with excused absences that must miss a test that the faculty member will count the other tests for more and will not offer an opportunity to make up a missed test. There is a tension between the faculty member having the right to set rules for the class and the University policy which some believe should be interpreted so that an excused absence does not hurt the student. The committee offered several suggestions, including that the student should be offered a choice such as a make-up exam or having the other exams count more. The excused absence policy of the instructor regarding make-up work should be clearly stated in the syllabus distributed on the first day of class

15) Committee members suggested that team liaisons be invited to attend the team's meeting at the beginning of the year to be introduced to the students and the coaches. Bubba Cunningham suggested that FAC members might also want to attend the larger compliance meeting (students are split into two groups for this meeting) to get the overview that the students are also receiving. It was agreed that minimum expectations for team liaisons might be to attend the team meeting at the beginning of the year and to make contact with the team's coaches. Some liaisons may choose to be more engaged with their teams, but the committee felt it best to leave to each FAC member the determination of their level of engagement with their teams.

For UNC

Orient the new Chancellor and new Provost.

Establish the Provost's Roundtable.

Provide leadership in reviewing admissions standards at UNC and nationally.

For Athletics Department

- 1) Implement the strategic plan and consider the budget implications of the goal of top three in the conference and top ten nationally in each sport. Mr. Cunningham explained a recent public comment that our athletic budget would need to be increased by 40%. In part, this was a recognition of what other top programs are spending and of the fact that we do not have the full complement of coaches in all sports, provide no scholarships in fencing and only limited scholarships in rowing. He suggested that there are multiple sources of additional revenue that could each provide some budget increase such as ticket prices, higher giving levels in the Ram's Club, an increase in the third party rights fees received by the Department, an increase in student fees, increases in the ACC TV contract that will come on line in future years, and additional advertising revenue
- 2) Get football and men's basketball players more involved in the Baddour Carolina Leadership Academy
- 3) Make academic information more accessible on goheels.com - Provide links to the ASPSA website; Highlight items such as those included in "News from Loudermilk" sent out each week by Dana Gelin; Make Leadership Academy information easier to find
- 4) Enhance the student-athlete graduation reception
- 5) Consider establishing an academic awards and recognition luncheon where each student honored could invite a faculty member
- 6) Establish an Awards Committee (for student-athlete awards based on criteria other than just athletic accomplishment) with representation from ASPSA, the department's Student Services Staff, the FAR, someone from athletic marketing and/or sports information. This is needed to replace this function which was formerly provided by Spencer Welborn (who no longer works for ASPSA) and to provide a broader base of people to consider deserving student-athletes. This committee could also help identify students early in their careers who might be candidates for prestigious scholarships like the Rhodes Scholarship and help guide them and prepare them for this path.

Conclusion

Given the large volume of information to review and discuss, the FAC made significant progress toward identifying what had occurred at UNC related to all aspects of the experience of a student who chooses to participate in athletics from recruitment to graduation. The next step is to evaluate the significant changes occurring to ensure we are strengthening the bond between athletics and academics. Through these efforts, the goal is for our University community to share a common pride in all victories of our students in the classroom and in the competitive sports arena and to build trust within our community related to our processes, policies, and philosophy.