Faculty Athletics Committee  
January 9, 2020


Advisors: Michelle Brown (ASPSA), Bubba Cunningham (Athletics), Vince Ille (Athletics)

Guests: Tiffany Bailey (ARS), Allan Blattner (Carolina Housing), Debbi Clarke (Provost’s Office), Jeni Cook (Media Relations), Dustin Duong (Daily Tar Heel), Anna Neil (Daily Tar Heel), Emily Summers (Office of the Chancellor)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and Introductions.

Committee Chair Daryhl Johnson welcomed all attendees to the meeting. All committee members and guests introduced themselves.

Minutes. The minutes from the December meeting were approved.

Preliminary matters.

- Johnson said he hopes that representatives from UNCut will be able to join the meeting in February to screen a video that was produced with Johnson and Rita Balaban. UNCut is a 501(c)(3) that provides student-athletes a platform to tell their stories, https://www.uncutchapelhill.com/.

II. Chancellor’s Remarks

Chancellor Guskiewicz welcomed the committee back to campus for the new year. He thanked the Carolina community for its support when he was named the University’s 12th Chancellor on December 13, 2019. He repeated what he said in his announcement speech, that the beauty of Carolina is the people. He looks forward to making decisions with and alongside the campus community. He explained servant leadership and what it means to him as he serves as Chancellor. He said he wants to lead with a common purpose and goals.

Guskiewicz noted some of the challenges that face UNC, but said that challenges also present opportunities. He explained that many of these challenges have been centered on or around race and discrimination. He said that he will continue to denounce hate and hate speech. Chancellor Guskiewicz is excited about the Commission on History, Race and a Way Forward. Additionally, he explained the $5 million Build Our Community Together Fund that he announced on December 13. This fund will help implement the University’s new strategic plan,
Carolina Next: Innovations for Public Good. One of its eight strategic initiative is Build Our Community Together.

The Chancellor thanked committee members for their hard work and explained the importance of hearing the voices of committee members.

Guskiewicz noted the NCAA’s discussion around student-athlete name, image, and likeness. He has discussed this issue with Athletic Director, Bubba Cunningham and Faculty Athletics Representative, Lissa Broome. There have also been calls and meetings with the Association of American Universities and ACC Presidents around this topic. Marielle vanGelder, Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance, will represent UNC on the ACC’s newly formed committee on name, image, and likeness.

Cunningham noted that there would be an open forum on the NIL topic at the upcoming NCAA annual convention. The NCAA is in the process of discussing the content of NCAA legislation on the subject, with the objective of having something to vote on in January 2021. There will be more open forums at UNC this year to get to get a better sense for the campus climate around name, image, and likeness.

Guskiewicz and Cunningham noted that the ACC Network was going well and that by the end of the fall semester UNC had produced more events for the network than anticipated. In addition, game days and times do not seem to be dramatically affected by requests from the network. UNC continues to be within its policy of no more than 7 missed class days for athletic competition (other than ACC/NCAA post-season) per semester.

Guskiewicz also praised the academic preparedness of our incoming student-athletes and their academic performance once they were on campus.

David Guilkey asked the Chancellor when we might expect the state budget to be adopted. Guskiewicz said he hoped to see some movement in the next few weeks. For UNC, most of the budget uncertainty is around salary increases. Some schools have instituted hiring freezes as a result. Guskiewicz said that the current budget model revolves around enrollment growth and that there is some discussion about changes to that model.

Committee Chair Daryhl Johnson is excited for Guskiewicz’s leadership and presented him with a new tent card as Chancellor to replace the Interim Chancellor tent card.

III. ASPSA Update

ASPSA Director Michelle Brown reported on the fall semester. She said the department’s fall term GPA was 3.009, making it the second semester in a row the term GPA exceeded 3.0. The Athletic Director Scholar Athletes will be recognized at halftime of the February 25 men’s basketball game against North Carolina State. In March, the men’s and women’s team with the highest team GPA will enjoy a dinner sponsored by a donor, who will be attending the event. In April, ASPSA will host the Tar Heel Scholar-Athlete Luncheon and FAC members will be invited to attend.

The NCAA approved a waiver to allow incoming spring semester Football players to arrive a day early (with their expenses paid by Athletics) to allow for an additional academic orientation along the lines of that provided to student-athletes who begin their studies in the fall semester. A focus area for ASPSA is degree, major, and career exploration, working in conjunction with
University Career Services. ASPSA tutors will have training this evening which will include discussion with the new sport psychologist, Brandon Carr.

IV. Academic Processes for Student Athletes: Review

Process 16.0 – Carolina Housing

Allan Blatter, Director of Carolina Housing, provided an overview of housing for UNC students. There are about 9300 beds on campus and about 56% of undergraduates live on campus. First-year students, who are required to live on campus, take up about 40% of the beds and total occupancy of campus housing is at about 98%. Carolina Housing partners with departments across campus so that students can learn what it means to be a world-class scholar by living with other world-class scholars. Off campus housing options continue to grow with a lot of new construction. Carolina Housing is focused on keeping its cost affordable and cannot compete with private housing on some amenities. Carolina Housing is trying to offer unique opportunities for on-campus residents by partnering with others on campus, such as Maker Space. Housing’s strategic plan includes incorporating Carolina branding and pictures. In addition, Housing has replaced all beds, all lounge furniture, and is working on kitchen updates.

Carolina Housing’s partnership with Athletics is strong. Many members of the women’s soccer team live in Avery, which then was branded as the home of the women’s soccer team. As a consequence, many non-student-athletes from the dorm attended the team’s games. Other coaches are interested in similar branding opportunities. Residence halls are now open over Thanksgiving and spring break to benefit all students, including student-athletes. Blattner noted that more student-athletes are entering school in the spring and that Housing is working hard to integrate those students into their housing communities. For student-athlete housing assignments, Housing works with Athletics to find available rooms and to pair the students. Student-athletes often room together because they have similar schedules. Blattner noted that ROTC students also often room together for the same reason. Cunningham added the student-athletes are distributed across campus housing and their location is often related to where the student-athlete practices or plays.

Questions for Allan Blattner:

Chancellor Guskiewicz asked how many beds are open in the spring and Blattner responded about 500 students leave campus housing after the fall semester and about 300 come back in the spring from study abroad or as incoming first-years. Joyner Residence Hall will be renovated this spring. In response to a question about whether the dorms should be repurposed, Blattner said that although Carolina does not need additional beds right now, they may have a need in the future. Parking for students in dorms and in Chapel Hill private housing is always a challenge. Students may be billed for damage to their rooms, but should not be billed for normal wear and tear. Further, students are given an opportunity to report problems with the room when they move in, so that those problems will not be attributed to them. The damage amounts are billed to the students’ accounts. Some students have apparently reported frustration with these charges and the lack of a mechanism for disputing them. Blattner said Housing would consider whether there was a better way to handle this, but acknowledged that student-athletes could not be treated differently from other students in this process. Cunningham thanked Blattner for Housing’s good working relationship with Athletics and its patience during the construction of athletic facilities near some of the residence halls.
Process 10. Student-Athletes with Disabilities.

Tiffany Bailey, Director of Accessibility Resources & Service (ARS), reported on the resources available for student-athletes with disabilities. She said the process of collaborating with ASPSA regarding student-athletics with learning disabilities has been very smooth. A priority for ASPSA and ARS is to get necessary accommodations in place as soon as possible.

Questions for Tiffany Bailey:

Rita Balaban thanked Bailey for her work with ARS and discussed the challenges ARS faced regarding sufficient resources. Bailey is examining data and looking at peer institutions for comparison. One of the difficulties is insufficient space to have exams proctored at the same time. She asked whether instructors might be more flexible in the dates and times that their exams are administered to students with disabilities. Bailey said she is working on exam logistics and preparing and presenting different options to instructors.

There are multiple points at which a student-athlete may be identified as having a learning disability and need ARS services. Michelle Brown said that sometimes prospective student-athletes share their documentation of a learning disability before they enroll so that ASPSA can work with ARS so that services are available when the student-athlete enrolls. There are also initial screenings used by ASPSA to identify students for additional testing. Faculty who believe a student may have a learning difficulty, should provide feedback to the student about the objective things they have noticed and encourage them to consider testing for learning difficulties. Brown said that some students do not want to be tested or identified with a learning disability and may never seek assistance or only seek it after they have not had success on their own. Brown reported that ASPSA has just hired a new learning specialist to help with optimizing learning strategies. ASPSA also helps students with learning disabilities leverage the resources provided by the Learning Center, ARS, and CAPS (if students have text anxiety, for instance). The MAP (My Academic Plan) for each student-athlete is crafted to include the additional study time that might be required for a student with a learning difference. Some students are now using audio note takers to assist with note taking. There is also a Digital Accessibility Office on campus that assists in making sure that classes are accessible for all.

V. Faculty Athletics Representative Update

Faculty Athletics Representative Lissa Broome presented her report, which is also attached. The NCAA Annual Convention will be held in late January. Broome, Cunningham, and Marielle vanGelder all plan to attend from UNC to hear the discussion that will take place among Division I institutions on how to move forward in crafting legislation to permit student-athletes to use their name, image, and likeness. There is no Autonomy Conference voting session at the convention this year. The two minor proposals before the Autonomy Conferences will be voted on electronically in advance of the convention.

As Chancellor Guskiewicz mentioned, the ACC Commissioner has just formed an ACC Name, Image, and Likeness Advisory Group. Its charge is to advise the ACC Commissioner and the ACC’s Council of Presidents on possible state and federal legislative solutions related to student-athlete name, image, and likeness. There is a representative from each ACC school on the group and members play a variety of roles on campus, including President/Chancellor, General Counsel, Government Affairs, FARs, ADs, SWAs, and Student-Athletes. Marielle vanGelder,
UNC’s head of Compliance and Senior Woman Administrator, is the UNC representative to the group. The ACC winter governance meetings will occur February 12-14.

UNC Athletics will host National Girls and Women in Sports Day on Sunday, January 19 from 11-12:30 in the Indoor Practice Facility. Families are encouraged to attend so that children may experience a variety of different sports under the direction of some of our female student-athletes. The women’s basketball game against Louisville immediately follows.

VI. Athletic Director Update

Athletic Director Bubba Cunningham reported that at the Athletic Department’s all-staff, semester kick-off meeting, Adrienne Allison from the University’s Title IX Office spoke to reinforce the importance of the work of her office. In addition, Dave Lohse, who is retiring after a long career in sports information, offered the staff some reflections. Cunningham also reported on the successful bowl game appearance by the Football team and said he is completing his year-end meetings with the fall sports teams.

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lissa Broome (with assistance from Emily Summers)

Attachments:

FAR Update
Update to FAC from the Faculty Athletics Representative
January 9, 2020

NCAA

1. Autonomy Conference
   a. No in-person meeting at the NCAA Convention
   b. Electronic voting on January 15
      i. Elite SAs flexibility for increased training with coaches and to receive additional expenses from the USOPC/NGB to cover training expenses

2. NCAA Annual Convention – January 23
   a. D1 Focused Board of Governors Federal and State Legislation Working Group Feedback Session
   b. D1 Issues Forum
   c. NCAA Plenary Session: The State of College Sports

3. NCAA D1 Council – Legislation for January vote

ACC

1. ACC NIL (Name, Image, and Likeness) Advisory Group just appointed
   a. Charge: To advise the ACC Commissioner and the Council of Presidents on possible state and federal legislative solutions related to the issue of student-athlete name, image and likeness. This advisory group will provide feedback to the Commissioner and Council as a collaborative effort to address this topic is undertaken with peer conferences.
   b. Representation from ACC Presidents/Chancellors, General Counsel, Government Affairs, FARs, ADs, SWAs, and SAs
   c. Marielle vanGelder is one of two Senior Woman Administrators on the Council and is the UNC representative.


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