

Faculty Athletics Committee
January 7, 2021
Location: Zoom

Present: **Committee Members:** Lissa Broome, Stacey Daughters, Melissa Geil, Dave Hartzell, Amanda Holliday, Daryhl Johnson, Aimee McHale, Robert Martinez, Ed Shields, Jay Smith, Abbie Smith-Ryan, Tania String, Kevin Guskiewicz

Advisors: Michelle Brown (ASPSA), Bubba Cunningham (Athletics), Vince Ille (Athletics), Debbi Clarke (Office of the Provost)

Guests: Emily Blackburn (Chancellor’s Office), Robbi Pickeral Evans (Athletics), Dwight Hollier (Athletics), Mario Ciocca (Sports Medicine)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and Introductions

Committee Chair Daryhl Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year. All committee members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Winter and Spring Competition Landscape

Athletic Director Bubba Cunningham noted that fall semester competitions went well. The Athletics Department staff learned from early virus outbreaks and continual improvements in testing, distancing, and traveling protocols. Most competitions occurred as scheduled. UNC did not cancel any games, although some games were canceled by the opposing party.

Athletics will bring student-athletes back for the spring semester in a phased approach much like the fall semester’s roll-out. All 27 teams will compete in their championship segment this semester. Cunningham thanked Dr. Mario Ciocca for his work last semester and for working to ensure a smooth transition to the spring semester.

III. Student-Athletes Health Updates

Dr. Ciocca reported that planning for the fall semester involved a great deal of coordination with the ACC, the ACC Medical Advisory Group (one physician from each school), the Orange County Health Department, and infectious diseases experts on our campus like Dr. David Weber and Dr. Erica Pettigrew. Through the fall, teams were tested via PCR three times per week with the exception of cross country. The risk of transmission on the field proved to be very low, and transmission was more likely during gathering times. Overall, teams seem to have benefitted from a more structured environment.

As the winter season approaches for indoor sports, the conversation continues with an added focus on preventing transmission during indoor gatherings. For wrestling and basketball, testing

will take place 48 hours before and after competition via PCR per ACC requirements. Student-athletes who have returned to campus are under a soft quarantine and will be retested next week. We are testing all student-athletes two times per week even though the ACC MAG only requires once a week testing for some sports. The ACC also has safety and testing protocols for each sport's officials.

Myocarditis continues to be a concern for our athletes since it can occur in symptomatic or asymptomatic COVID positive student-athletes. The return to practice or play protocols require a blood test, EKG, and echocardiogram, with a cardiac MRI if there are still symptoms. To date, there have been no confirmed cases of myocarditis among UNC student-athletes.

At this point, Dr. Ciocca is confident that keeping student-athletes in a structured environment with stringent testing protocols puts them at a lower risk than if protocols were not enforced during a canceled season. A host of factors could affect whether competition goes forward, including hospital capacity and testing capability. Jay Smith added that an additional factor to consider is the health impact on the broader community. Cunningham noted that currently no fans are attending athletic contests.

Aimee McHale stressed the importance of letting student-athletes use their agency regarding participation in competition. She commended Dr. Ciocca for his work to keep our student-athletes healthy. Chancellor Guskiewicz reiterated that the health and safety of our student-athletes is the top priority and that we are continually monitoring the situation. He thanked Dr. Ciocca and his team for their dedication to the health of our student-athletes. Daryhl Johnson thanked Dr. Ciocca for joining the Faculty Athletics Committee meeting.

IV. Chancellor's Remarks

Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz reiterated the importance and impact of the work of Dr. Mario Ciocca and his team in Sports Medicine. A campus message which has just been dispatched to faculty, staff, and students details how the return to campus will work. A limited number of students will return to residence halls on January 13, and classes will be delivered in a remote-only capacity until February 8. This will allow students time to travel back to campus when it is safer to do so. A very rigorous testing program will be utilized in tandem with monitoring the results through Campus Health. Twenty percent of our undergraduate classes are scheduled to be taught in-person following the three-week delay. The success of these protocols will require the cooperation of our entire community. The Chancellor thanked Dr. Amir Barzin for his efforts in standing up our testing and tracing efforts for the spring semester. The Hall Pass application will allow Campus Health to contact trace more effectively across campus. The University believes that it has protections in place to ensure that in-class transmission will not be an issue once students return to in-person instruction. Rates and manner of transmission and infection will, of course, be closely monitored once in-person classes resume.

Yesterday's events at our nation's Capitol should be denounced and should remind each of us of the importance of our work at this University. We must do all that we can to promote democracy, which is Strategic Initiative #5 within the University's Carolina Next Strategic Plan.

V. FAC Housekeeping and Updates

The minutes from the December meeting were approved.

Team Liaison Update and Connections

Robert Martinez met with baseball coach Forbes and his assistant coaches at the end of the fall semester. Martinez hopes to meet Coach Forbes for socially-distant coffee and meet the team when outdoor activities begin.

Aimee McHale has had several good meetings with the coaches from the track and field team. They did a great job in the fall around racial reckoning issues and have been very sensitive to the student-athletes of color, allowing them to share their experiences with the team at large. Teams have expressed their gratitude for the ability to compete. Track and field has cut its Zoom time to ensure meetings are productive.

Melissa Geil suggested that members reach out to their respective teams at the beginning of the year to set the tone for the semester. She also suggested following teams' Instagram accounts to keep up-to-date on the activities of the student-athletes.

Spring Student-Athlete Focus Group Discussion

The report summarizing the fall focus group meetings will incorporate comments from the spring sports focus group discussions so that there will be one document encompassing both sessions. If FAC members hear anything during the focus groups that may warrant immediate attention by Athletics, they should bring it to Athletic Director Cunningham's attention. Cunningham noted that Athletics is continually working to improve the student-athlete experience based on this input and other inputs. FAC may want to identify some specific areas of emphasis to work on with Athletics.

Tania String suggested that we consider incorporating some different questions next year. In addition, it may be helpful to inform SAAC members in advance of the groups about issues raised in previous years and the responses to them. These areas include shorter length study abroad opportunities that may be attractive to student-athletes, the periodic presence of someone from the study abroad office in Loudermilk to advise student-athletes about these opportunities, hiring an additional sports psychologist, and the development of PATH Med and PATH Law. Dwight Hollier reported on a gift from the Park family and the Triad Foundation that will target mental health resources. It will be used to add another Master's level mental health counselor position. A graduate student from the UNC School of Social Work is also working with Cricket Lane this year, providing another level of student support.

VI. ASPSA Update

Michelle Brown, the Director of the Academic Support Program for Student-Athletes, reported that the Fall term GPA was 3.35, with a 3.15 cumulative GPA. Women's Soccer had the highest GPA for a women's team with 3.78. Men's Fencing had the highest GPA for a men's team.

Twenty-six student-athletes graduated at the end of the semester. Brown is proud of this very strong performance of our student-athletes while navigating COVID-19, competition, and academics.

Twenty one new first-year student-athletes will enroll in January spread across nine different teams including six transfer students. The ASPSA staff is navigating the challenges associated with new students enrolling mid-year. Brown cautioned that faculty should remember that new transfer students are also completely new to our University and its academic rigor. Orientation for new student-athletes will be Friday, January 15. English 100 will be offered in the spring and that will be a welcome option for the students who need that course.

Tutoring will continue on a virtual basis for the spring. A few students with special challenges will be able to access the building as needed, but access to the building will remain restricted.

I. Faculty Athletics Representative Update

Faculty Athletics Representative Lissa Broome reported that the NCAA Virtual Annual Convention will be held January 12 -26, with the Division 1 Council expected to vote on Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) legislation and a uniform one-time transfer exception which would permit football, basketball, and baseball student-athletes to transfer once as undergraduates and compete the next year without being required to sit out.

Winter ACC governance meetings will take place from February 10-12. On December 14, the ACC announced that Jim Phillips, the Athletic Director at Northwestern, would become the next ACC Commissioner and begin in February. We, as a University, will need to consider how to honor outgoing Commissioner John Swofford after his twenty-four years of service that was preceded by his time at UNC as UNC's Athletics Director. Commissioner Swofford is also a former football student-athlete and UNC alumnus.

II. Athletic Director Update

Athletic Director Bubba Cunningham congratulated Michelle Brown, the ASPSA staff, and the students on a great semester. Seven former student-athletes graduated in December through the Complete Carolina program. There were 20 student-athletes enrolled in the program last semester.

The *Alston* case will be heard by the Supreme Court in March.

Athletics expects budget challenges to continue through next year given the continued restrictions on in-person attendance at athletic events. Priorities for this semester include the budget (this year and projections for next), scheduling priorities for teams with so many competitions occurring during the semester, and coaches managing rosters and scholarships with additional years of eligibility offered to student-athletes by the NCAA as a result of the pandemic. Cunningham thanked Dwight Hollier for championing mental health initiatives for our student-athletes, especially in conjunction with the gift from the Triad Foundation that Hollier announced earlier in the meeting.

Cunningham said the Carolina Values project launches next week, which will promote that Athletics values education, participation, opportunities, and activity. The 50th anniversary of Title IX and Women's Athletics at Carolina is approaching. Diversity and inclusion is a continual focus for the department. Finally, Cunningham said, Athletics asks for its sports programs: "What helps our students graduate? What helps our teams win?" And for the department, Athletics asks, "How do we provide services" to complete projects and fulfill priorities for the semester.

All sports will be competing this spring, except football but it still has spring practice. Athletics will work to be creative when using competition facilities, and specific times and protocols will be observed in granting access to weight and training facilities.

Cunningham is a member of the NCAA D1 Men's Basketball Committee. The entire tournament will be held this year at six different sites in Indianapolis. Quarantining and testing will be ramped up to try to protect the health of the participants.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20.

Prepared by Lissa Broome and Emily Blackburn

Attachments:

FAR Update
Athletics Spring 2021 Topics, Priorities, and Issues



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Spring Semester 2021

Topics, Issues and Priorities



NCAA

- **Alston Case to the SCOTUS**
- **NIL Legislation—3 Bills in Congress**
- **NCAA Legislation—January Convention**
- **IARP/ Enforcement Process**
- **Presidential Commission**
- **Continued Legal Challenges**



ACC

- **Commissioner Transition**
 - Staff Concerns
 - Television Contract
 - Presidential Leadership
- **Spring 2021 Schedules**
- **2021-22 Academic Year Priorities**



UNC

- **University Budget Challenges**
 - 2020-21
 - 2021-22
- **Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Search**



Department of Athletics

- Budget
- Scheduling Priorities and Conflicts
- Roster and Scholarship Management 2020-21
- Carolina Values Project
- Mental Health Initiatives
- NCAA Championships
- NCAA Men's Basketball Committee
 - Tournament Bubble
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
 - Black History Month
- 50th Anniversary of Title IX
 - Summer, 2022



Moving Forward...

Communication is Key

Weekly Meetings

- Executive Team Meetings

Monthly Meetings

- Head and Assistant Coaches
- Sport Administrators

Quarterly Meetings

- Title IX
- Strategic Planning
- Budget

Semester Meetings

- All Staff 8:00am January 19



Moving Forward...

Continuing Challenges

Sports Programs

- **What helps our students graduate?**
- **What helps our teams win?**

Department

- **How Do We Provide Services?**
 - **Communications, Marketing, GoHeels Productions**
 - **Facilities**
 - **Compliance**
 - **Student Wellness and Leadership**





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**Faculty Athletics Representative Update
January 7, 2020**

NCAA

1. NCAA Division I Council (January vote; ACC casts 1 weighted vote)
 - a. Uniform one-time transfer exception and immediate eligibility to play in any sport
 - b. NIL
2. NCAA virtual annual convention in January 12-26

ACC

1. ACC Legislative Webinar on December 16
2. Winter meetings, February 10-12
3. New ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips announced on December 14