

Faculty Athletics Committee
December 3, 2020
Location: Zoom

Present: **Committee Members:** Rita Balaban, 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), Allison Legge (ACUA), Charlene Regester (ACUA), David Navalinsky (ACUA), Michael Kris (ACUA), Abigail Panter (ACUA), Daniel Klasik (ACUA), Lauren DiGrazia (ACUA), Chloe Russell (ACUA), Doug Shackelford (ACUA), Jared Rosenberg (Admissions), Jennifer Kretchmar (Admissions), Jon Engel (ACUA), Marcus Collins (Admissions), Melody Levy (ACUA), Michael Davis (Admissions), Rachelle Feldman (Interim Enrollment), Yolanda Keith (Admissions), Susan King (ACUA), Steve Farmer (Admissions)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and Introductions

Committee Chair Daryhl Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Thanks to the Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Admissions (ACUA) for joining FAC to discuss student-athlete admissions. Also a special thanks to Steve Farmer, Vice Provost for Enrollment and Undergraduate Admissions, for his terrific career at Carolina. Our loss is the University of Virginia’s gain. All committee members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Chancellor’s Remarks

Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz thanked everyone for their attendance and thanked Steve Farmer for his legacy of service to the University. The Chancellor congratulated Rachelle Feldman on her appointment as Interim Vice Provost of Enrollment. The Chancellor congratulated Dean Susan King on the excellent job of moderating last night’s Eve Carson Lecture with Karen Parker (’65). Finally the Chancellor thanked everyone present for their service to their respective committees in addition to their “day jobs.”

Women’s Field Hockey won the ACC Championship and Karen Shelton won her 700th game. The women’s soccer team made it to the ACC Championship but had a tough loss to Florida State. UNC has announced a partnership with the National Fitness Foundation, making us the first university to engage with that group.

Tomorrow at the Faculty Council meeting, UNC leadership will share insights into the preparation and planning for the Spring semester. Students, faculty, and staff have been feeling the strain of the global pandemic since last March. We have learned from our experiences in the Fall semester and from other Universities and will apply those lessons to plans for the Spring semester. We have moved the Spring start date to January 19, with no spring break but wellness days incorporated throughout the semester. Residence halls will be single occupancy so we can accommodate roughly 3,500 students in on campus housing. We are implementing a robust testing plan under the leadership of Dr. Amir Barzin. We are working diligently with Joel Curran, Vice Chancellor for Communications, to make sure that plans are clear, and we want to hear if there are ways that we can better communicate this plan to our greater community.

While we do not have control over the path of the virus, we have received some uplifting news with the approval of a vaccine. There is optimism that widespread vaccinations will be available in mid- to late-Spring. If the University's spring plans evolve based on changing conditions, an announcement will be made by January 9. The Chancellor is grateful for the work of some of the best experts in the country who are on our campus as well as for the efforts of the Campus and Community Advisory Committee.

III. Admissions

Steve Farmer, Abigail Panter, Allison Legge, and Rachelle Feldman thanked the Faculty Athletics Committee for hosting the meeting. Steve Farmer thanked all committee members and guests for their collegiality and kindness during his time at UNC-Chapel Hill. Admissions and Enrollment are in great hands under the leadership of Allison Legge and Rachelle Feldman, respectively. He also thanked FAC leaders, the Committee on Special Talent Admissions, Michelle Brown, Lissa Broome, Bubba Cunningham, and Vince Ille for their leadership and principled work in this area.

Steve presented a brief overview of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions in addition to the Committee on Special Talent. Since 2013, an average of 152 first-year students per year have enrolled through the special talent process, with 46 additional students joining athletic teams who enrolled without regard to their special talent.

The Committee on Special Talent must have at least 6 voting members, the majority of whom are tenured or tenure track faculty in the College of Arts & Sciences. The Committee normally reviews students whose predicted grade point average (PGPA) in the first year is below 2.3. The PGPA formula was created in 2013. It predicts approximately 30% of the variance in first year GPA and was last revised in 2019. One of the components of the GPA is an SAT or ACT score. Because these tests are optional this year during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Special Talent Committee is now reviewing students who do not present a test score who have a high school GPA in their NCAA-designated core courses of less than 3.0, students who do not meet the UNC system minimum admission requirements (MAR) or minimum course requirements (MCR), and students who have a breach of community standards that is significant. Many students who were admitted to begin in Fall 2020 did not have the opportunity in spring 2020 to improve their high school GPAs since many schools went to a pass/fail grading and did not have the opportunity to try to improve their test scores on the ACT or SAT. Farmer noted that since 2013, the

Committee on Special Talent has recommended 80 students for admission and that only 4 have left the University academically ineligible.

Faculty Athletics Representative Lissa Broome mentioned the impending NCAA bylaw changes that might increase the number of student-athlete transfers. Farmer noted that transfer admissions tend to be more complicated because courses from the prior institution often do not line up with courses at UNC and the degree applicability requirements for student-athletes presents additional challenges.

Farmer also suggested that the University consider graduate special-talent admissions procedures, especially given the predicted influx of graduate students that now have an additional year of academic eligibility from NCAA COVID-19 policies.

Dave Hartzell noted that a number of collegiate soccer players are international students and asked how applications from international students are evaluated. Michael Davis said that the office considers students' achievements within the context of their environment, curriculum, and experiences.

Bubba Cunningham thanked Steve Farmer for his 20-plus years of service to this University and leaving an indelible mark on our community.

IV. FAC Housekeeping and Updates

The minutes from the November meeting were approved.

Team Liaison Update and Connections

David Hartzell has met with the Men's Soccer coaches to talk about admissions and COVID-19 challenges that they are navigating. Hartzell also met with the team's SAAC representatives three times. The Men's Soccer team has created an alumni advisory and Hartzell participates with that group, which provides positive support for the team.

Amanda Holliday has met with the coaches and student-athletes for Field Hockey and Men's Tennis. The students were very open and discussed challenges they face ranging from parking to early registration. She also enjoyed learning about their training activities and nutrition.

Daryhl Johnson has been checking in regularly with Men's Football and they continue to feel heard and supported. Vince Ille added that there continues to be an upward trend in the football program with a great deal of buy-in by the students to Coach Brown and his leadership.

December 2 Coaches Meeting Debrief

Several members reflected that the meeting was very informational, but suggested that perhaps at a future meeting there be more opportunity for coaches to talk. One idea would be to formulate questions in advance to share with the coaches.

Next Steps on Topic Group: Student-Athlete Welfare and Equity

Aimee McHale and Jay Smith provided a summary of the SAAC/FAC Focus Group Discussions. The overall take-away was that the student-athletes who participated from the fall sport programs had a wonderful experience at UNC, praising all the resources available to student-athletes. Some students mentioned areas where they believed there was opportunity for improvement: more tutoring for higher level courses, additional focus on career readiness outside of the business profession, providing different times for some courses that are in conflict with practice times, greater clarity around optional versus mandatory meetings, considered use of Zoom meeting to avoid overuse, expanded dining hall hours, and increase availability of parking. FAC members should review the summary and provide any comments or clarifications to McHale. This discussion will continue with additional focus group discussions with the winter and spring sports teams and will culminate in suggestions to the Athletics Department on ways to enhance the student-athlete experience. Michelle Brown asked that specific information about course conflicts with practice time be forwarded to her so that she could bring this issue to the attention of the department and ask that class times be varied.

V. ASPSA Update

Michelle Brown reported that priority registration for student-athletes for spring semester courses was successfully completed on November 29. The NCAA released the most recent Graduation Success Rate (GSR) information on November 17. UNC's multi-year GSR increased.

Twenty to twenty-four new first-year student-athletes will enroll in January. Orientation will be Friday, January 15. English 100 will be offered in the spring and that will be a welcome option for those 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 for most students.

VI. Faculty Athletics Representative Update

Lissa Broome reported that NCAA bylaw changes on significant issues (Name, Image and Likeness; uniform transfer legislation) will be considered by the NCAA D1 Council in January. UNC will submit its positions to the ACC. The ACC's representative to the Council will cast the conference's vote based on the feedback received from the member institutions. The ACC legislative webinar will take place on December 16 to discuss any votes that were closely contested and to provide final guidance for the ACC representative.

The autonomy conferences will not meet during the NCAA convention. The NCAA annual convention will be held virtually over a three-week period.

The ACC FARs met Monday for the annual best practices meeting which was very enlightening.

UNCut, <https://www.uncutchapelhill.com/>, is hosting a webinar on financial planning for student-athletes and also has a number of podcasts posted that FAC members may find of interest.

VII. Athletic Director Update

Bubba Cunningham thanked Jay Smith for his comments regarding racial injustice and freedom of speech across our teams. He believes that the department's 3 Es and 5 Vs effort is designed so that the department's attention to equity and diversity will be ongoing and not just for the current moment. The National Fitness Foundation and National Youth Sports Strategy partnership with UNC Health and the Gillings School of Public Health was recently announced, as Chancellor Guskiewicz mentioned. The purpose is to encourage youth to engage in sports and healthy lifestyles.

The Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletes suggested during a webinar earlier today that FBS football be moved out of the NCAA governance structure. More details will be published soon.

Aimee McHale thanked Bubba and the rest of the Athletics staff for their hard work to help spectators feel safe at events such as football games and for allowing student-athletes to have the best semester possible under the circumstances.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30.

Prepared by Lissa Broome and Emily Blackburn

Attachments:

Carolina's Student-Athlete GSR Tops 90 Percent
Again FAR Update

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS
TUESDAY, NOV. 17, 2020**

Carolina's Student-Athlete Graduation Success Rate Tops 90 Percent Again

CHAPEL HILL – The NCAA's Graduation Success Rates for student-athletes who entered the University of North Carolina in 2013-14 is 91 percent, UNC's second consecutive year above 90 percent.

In addition, Carolina's four-year GSR climbed from 86 to 88 percent, which matched the NCAA average, and 26 of 28 varsity teams either improved or stayed at the same rate from a year ago.

Fifteen of UNC's 28 teams had a higher four-year GSR than in last year's report, 11 stayed the same and two dropped by a single point apiece. Men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country and track and field, football, men's golf, men's lacrosse, men's and women's soccer, men's swimming and diving and wrestling all reported increases.

The NCAA's Graduation Success Rates measure graduation rates over a six-year period for student-athletes who entered UNC from 2010 to 2013. It takes into account student-athletes who were on scholarship their first year and graduate from their respective university or leave the program via transfer to another university or professional opportunities while in good academic standing.

Twenty of Carolina's varsity teams showed a Graduation Success Rate of 90 percent or higher with 10 (two more than a year ago) posting a perfect 100 percent (women's basketball, women's fencing, gymnastics, men's and women's golf, women's lacrosse, women's swimming and diving, men's and women's tennis and volleyball).

Ten Tar Heel teams led the ACC or tied for the best GSR in the ACC: women's basketball, women's fencing, men's and women's golf, gymnastics, women's lacrosse, women's swimming and diving, men's and women's tennis and volleyball.

The University's single-year Federal Graduation Rate, which penalizes a school when students leave the university early for various reasons (including the opportunity to play professionally), fell from 78 to 75 percent, which is still a five-point increase from two years ago. UNC's four-year federal rate improved three percentage points to 72 percent.

**Faculty Athletics Representative Update
December 3, 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. No issues before the Autonomy Conferences in January
3. NCAA virtual annual convention in January 12-26

ACC

1. ACC FARs Best Practices meeting on November 30
2. Proposed amendments to NCAA Council legislation due December 3
3. UNC votes due December 11
4. ACC Legislative Webinar December 16

UNC

1. UNCUT -- <https://www.uncutchapelhill.com/>
 - a. December 3, 6:00 p.m., Webinar on Financial Planning