

Faculty Athletics Committee
February 3, 2021
Location: Zoom

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

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

Guests: Emily Blackburn (Chancellor's Office), Robbi Pickeral Evans (Athletics), Ben Greer (DTH), Dwight Hollier (Athletics), Richard Keroack (Athletics), Leslie Kreizman (ITS)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and Introductions

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

I. Chancellor's Remarks

Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz said he was happy to be back with the Faculty Athletics Committee in the new academic year. The Chancellor's Office conducted a survey of graduating students to get their input on how to celebrate graduation. The hope is to have multiple in-person ceremonies at Kenan Stadium, but there are still many uncertainties related to the pandemic.

Budget planning, with a goal of a balanced budget, has begun through the work of Interim Vice Chancellor for Finance and Operations Nate Knuffman and his team with units across campus. The pandemic has threatened virtually every revenue source of this and other universities. Unfortunately, cuts in personnel and operating funds are necessary to addressing a structural deficit that the University faces. While it may seem untimely to take these measures during a pandemic, we don't know what the future holds, and we must ensure our financial stability. The Deans are engaging with their constituencies on these difficult decisions, just as we have been consulting with the deans and Vice Chancellors throughout this process.

The good news is that we received around 54,000 applications for admission this year and will grow our enrollment slightly. Research funding is consistent with last year's record of \$1.2 billion, and the Campaign for Carolina remains strong with record end-of-year giving totals. Our in-person classes for undergraduates begin on February 8. The Carolina Together testing program continues to go well, conducting over 30,000 tests to date, with 359 positives detected, and 1,260 close contacts being monitored. There were 168 positives in the prior-to-arrival testing who

delayed their return to campus as a result of the positive tests. The testing program is able to catch clusters and cases early and this helps prevent further spread.

Chancellor Guskiewicz continues to be impressed with all the tremendous work that has been done. The Carolina COVID-19 Student Service Corps, led by Meg Zomorodi, has logged over 5,000 collective volunteer hours. This speaks to how we come together at Carolina in a collaborative way to solve problems. We believe that staff who are front-line workers on campus will be able to receive the vaccine in Phase 3. Campus Health has been approved to be a vaccination distribution center once we've moved into Phase 3. UNC Health has a distribution site at the hospital and at the Friday Center. Chancellor Guskiewicz closed by expressing gratitude for the work of so many in preparing for the semester.

II. FAC Housekeeping and Updates

The minutes from the January meeting were approved.

Team Liaison Update

Ed Shields reported on good conversations with the Wrestling and Men's Lacrosse coaches regarding the challenges their teams are continuing to face due to COVID-19. Shields has been very impressed with teams' ability to "improvise, adapt and overcome" amid a pandemic to play and practice successfully in their seasons.

Jay Smith has been in limited contact with Men's Fencing and Men's and Women's Golf. It has been difficult to find ways to comfortably meet during the pandemic, but Smith is looking forward to meeting more closely with teams once the restrictions from COVID-19 are lifted.

Abbie Smith-Ryan has met with Women's Lacrosse in the fall and earlier this spring with meetings scheduled later this semester. Men's Basketball is in full swing, and Smith-Ryan plans to take part in practice drop-ins as the team schedule allows.

Spring Student-Athlete Advisory Council Focus Group Discussions

Lissa Broome has reached out to Korie Sawyer Rich to determine a date for Spring semester focus groups with winter and spring sport student-athletes.

III. COVID-19 Impact on Student Athletes

Michelle Brown, director of the Academic Support Center for Student-Athletes, reported that the NCAA has granted all student-athletes an extra year of eligibility for competition because of the pandemic. The NCAA has also lifted limits on athletic scholarships that may be provided to student-athletes. ASPSA has been working with student-athletes along with the College of Arts & Sciences advisors to help those who expect to use their extra year of eligibility to craft academic plans for that additional time in school. Some students are maintaining their current plans; others have chosen to graduate and pursue graduate courses. Some students have already extended their academic plans and have added majors and/or minors after discussion with their

academic advisors. Some students are choosing to graduate, and continue their enrollment by taking courses at the Friday Center as an Arts and Sciences Non-Degree Graduate Student. This option does not lead to a degree but does allow for course exploration. Another option is to pursue a graduate degree or a graduate certificate, but these options are often extremely competitive for admissions and have limited enrollments. Graduating students can also transfer to another institution and exhaust their eligibility elsewhere. Brown explained that the Academic Performance Rate (APR) may be impacted by these various options and she and her staff are working through those challenges and supporting students as they make decisions that are best for them.

Richard Keroack, Assistant Director of Compliance and Financial Aid Specialist, provided an overview of the student-athlete financial aid process, including the details of a full athletic scholarship at Carolina. Each athletic team has its own scholarship limit, and the financial aid process consists of five primary steps: seeking approval of budget from the Ram's Club, completing scholarship agreements (most student-athletes are on multi-year scholarship agreements), calculating the dollar amount of athletic scholarship including the cost of attendance which may change from year-to-year, transferring the scholarships to the Office of Financial Aid for upload into the Connect Carolina system for monitoring, and adjusting scholarships as rosters fluctuate throughout the academic year. The actual student-athlete scholarship amount accounts for about 54 percent of the total dollar value of the benefits student-athletes receive during their time as a student-athlete (other benefits include things like tutoring, insurance, medical).

In the wake of COVID-19, students have been granted an extra year of eligibility, and the NCAA has allowed institutions to exempt these students from counting against the NCAA scholarship limits for each sport. This is resulting in larger team rosters and increased scholarship expenses. For instance, after the cancellation of spring sports in 2020, nineteen spring sport student-athletes who otherwise would have exhausted their eligibility, continued their enrollment this year and participation in their sport at a cost of about \$700,000. Coach Williams and his wife made a special gift to the Ram's Club to cover this expense. Student-athletes can receive CARES Act funding in addition to their financial aid and housing and food if isolation is warranted. Student-athletes who opted out of competition this year because of the pandemic are still receiving their athletic scholarships. The Complete Carolina program provides funding to former student-athletes who return to campus to complete their degrees. There is additional interest in this program since former student-athletes can access many classes remotely. Twenty student-athletes were enrolled in this program in Fall 2020 and this has increased the cost of maintaining this program.

There are two categories of student-athlete scholarships: head count sports and equivalency sports. Head count sports are full scholarships (or no scholarship) and do not allow the breaking up of scholarships. In equivalency sports, the total number of full scholarship equivalencies for a sport may be divided up among multiple student-athletes with some receiving partial scholarships. Pell Grants are need-based grants from the federal government and these can be accepted by student-athletes in addition to their athletic scholarship.

A discussion followed regarding the various academic options for student-athletes who have an additional year of eligibility:

- Consider internships for credit.
- Ensure that the admissions process to graduate and professional programs is not adversely impacted.
- Advise students about graduate courses that might be applicable to a graduate degree later even if the student has not been admitted into a particular graduate degree program.
- A new graduate degree program, the Masters of Applied Professional Studies (MAPS) in the Graduate School, had been proposed by the University. The Board of Governors has put forth a new process for approval and the program is now going through that process.
- It might be a good idea to collect and present data about the number of continuing students and which options outlined above they are taking. In addition, we will collect information about the number of grad transfers (into UNC) over the last few years, the programs they entered, and whether they completed the graduate degree.

IV. ASPSA Update

Michelle Brown reported that as of the end of the add/drop period, 92 percent of the classes are online for student-athletes and 8 percent are in-person. For this semester, 473 student-athletes (65 percent) have all online classes, 34.7 percent have at least one in-person class, and one student-athlete has all in-person classes. Debbi Clarke confirmed that these proportions are on par with the entire student population.

Michelle Brown and Marielle vanGelder have been working to review requests to attend practice during some hybrid classes' by examining syllabi to ensure that student-athletes have a clear understanding of what in-person requirements are included for each class. For instance, if a class is synchronous, but recorded, a student-athlete should not miss that class for practice. Some classes have some synchronous and some asynchronous components, but students are advised they must be present (absent a University approved excused absence) for any synchronous components and may be approved to attend practice for some asynchronous portions. Some class times have been shifted which has created challenges for students during registration.

Final exam conflicts are predicted to be significant due to the number of teams anticipated to take part in the ACC and NCAA tournaments, which may overlap with the final exam period. This is obviously an extraordinary year where the UNC calendar has been extended and the NCAA is holding championships for fall sports this spring in addition to the normal spring sport championships. Thirteen teams may potentially have conflicts, so ASPSA is planning to coordinate with the College of Arts and Sciences to ensure a positive outcome for student-athletes.

A presentation for faculty in partnership with the Center for Faculty Excellence about student-athletes will take place on February 24 at 3 PM. Thanks to Abbie Smith-Ryan and Aimee McHale for agreeing to participate in this presentation, which is centered around "A Day in the Life of a Student-Athlete." This presentation will attempt to debunk stereotypes and give faculty

tools to work with student-athletes. The session will be recorded and is open to any faculty who would like to attend.

V. Faculty Athletics Representative Update

The NCAA Virtual Annual Convention occurred from January 12 -26. The NCAA Division 1 Council tabled the votes on Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) legislation and the 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. An official at the Department of Justice sent a letter to the NCAA and expressed antitrust concerns with both proposals, causing the votes to be tabled until further conversation is had with the DOJ. The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the *Alston* case in March, which is also an antitrust case.

The ACC welcomed Jim Phillips as the new ACC Commissioner on February 1. John Swofford will be celebrated for his 24-year career in the ACC when it is safe to gather in person again. Winter ACC governance meetings will take place February 10-12. An amendment to the ACC's interconference transfer rule will likely be a topic of conversation at these meetings.

The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) is a group that our Faculty Council is a member of, and Mimi Chapman has requested that the Vice-Chair of FAC along with the FAR also receive COIA correspondence and act on the University's behalf unless it is a significant issue that requires greater conversation. There is an annual meeting for COIA on February 19-20, and you can sign up to view the agenda and attend the meeting virtually from the COIA website.

The "Dr. Pepper Go Teach Tuition Giveaway" granted a \$2,500 scholarship for a Master's degree in an education-related field. UNC nominated Tara McDaniels, a Women's Lacrosse player, who received the extra year of eligibility, but graduated in December, forgoing her additional eligibility. Tara also received the grand prize of \$20,000, for a total scholarship of \$22,500 towards her pursuit of a Master's degree in Special Education.

Lissa will distribute another "Quick Minutes" summary for today's meeting and will request feedback next month on whether this summary format should be discontinued, continued separately from the formal minutes, or continued in replacement of the formal meeting minutes.

VI. Athletic Director Update

The *Alston* case will go to the Supreme Court to be heard sometime in March for discretionary review that is very infrequently given. There is also discussion about federal NIL legislation, but no action is expected until after the *Alston* case.

Today is National Girls and Women in Sports Day, which is typically celebrated in person. The department has kicked off programming for Black History Month and that can be found on the department's website. There was an excellent panel with black and white student-athletes which all coaches have been asked to watch with their teams. This is the next phase of the department's discussions surrounding race relations.

Season tickets for football went on sale today and sales are going very well with new season ticket holders and those who rolled over their tickets from the current season. A recent department-wide meeting with Dr. Mario Ciocca reiterated all the COVID-19 protocols that must be followed, including NCAA, ACC, and University standards. Student-athletes are now participating in the Carolina Testing Together testing program which has been helpful. Cunningham is asking coaches to be patient and flexible as student-athletes are placed in isolation and observation throughout the semester.

The department has launched its Carolina Values project and several video segments have been filmed as part of the project. The project is geared towards promoting that UNC Athletics values education, participation, opportunities, and activity. Thanks to Daryhl and the Chancellor for taking part in one of the videos that spoke about the value of education. Finalized videos will be rolled out by Robbi Pickeral Evans over the next few weeks.

EA Sports has announced that it is bringing back the College Football video game, which gained national attention. Avatars will not be able to be changed to resemble specific player, but EA Sports has licensed the intellectual property for things like the fight song.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30.

Prepared by Lissa Broome and Emily Blackburn

Attachments:

FAR Update

Faculty Athletics Representative Update
February 4, 2021

NCAA

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 - 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

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2. Winter meetings, February 10-12
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