

**Joint Meeting of the
Faculty Athletics Committee and the
Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Admissions
December 15, 2021
3:00-5:00 PM
Location: Zoom**

Present: **Faculty Athletic Committee Members:** Rita Balaban, Lissa Broome, Melissa Geil, Kevin Guskiewicz, Amanda Holliday, Robert Martinez, Lisa Rahangdale, Jay Smith, Isaac Unah

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

Student-Athlete Representatives: Duwe Farris (SAAC)

Guests: Robbi Pickeral Evans (Athletics), Amy Grau (Chancellor’s Office), Dwight Hollier (Athletics), Katie Sessoms (Chancellor’s Office)

Admissions Advisors: Hayes Boylston (Admissions), Michael Davis (Admissions), Rachelle Feldman (Enrollment), Allison Legge (Admissions), Abigail Panter (Chair), Jared Rosenberg (Admissions)

Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Committee on Special Talent

I) Welcome and Introductions

Melissa Geil, Chair of the Faculty Athletics Committee, welcomed both committees to this annual opportunity to discuss the student-athlete admissions process. Geil reviewed the charge of the Faculty Athletics Committee.

FAC Charge: "The Faculty Athletics Committee informs and represents the faculty and advises the chancellor on any aspect of athletics, including, but not limited to, the academic and broader University experience for varsity student athletes and the general conduct and operation of the University’s athletic program.”[(Faculty Code § 4-7[b]).

Abigail Panter, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Admissions, introduced herself and reviewed the charge of the Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Admissions.

Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Admissions Charge: The Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Admissions has charged three subsidiary committees to assist it with its work:

- Committee on Disabilities
- Committee on Race-Neutral Strategies
- Committee on Special Talent

II) Chancellor's Remarks

Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz thanked both committees and the staff that contribute to each group's work. He emphasized the importance of our students excelling in the classroom as well as on the field.

The University is expecting to maintain the current community standards but will adjust plans as needed to respond to the spread of the new Omicron variant of COVID.

UNC got a victory in the Students for Fair Admissions case. The court made it clear that our holistic admissions process case is lawful. Thanks to our admissions team for their hard work as they evaluate another potential record-breaking class for next year. The new Vice Provost for Enrollment will be announced soon.

The annual salary increases for state employees included in the state budget will be retroactive to July 1. The new budget also provides tuition remission for out-of-state student-athletes who will also not count against the 18% out-of-state enrollment cap.

Last Thursday the next Vice Chancellor and Provost, Chris Clemons, was announced. Clemons will assume his new role on February 1. Thanks to Provost Bob Blouin for the great service he has provided our campus for the last four and one-half years. In addition, Dr. Amy Hertel has been appointed as Executive Vice Provost and will work closely alongside Clemons and Ron Strauss.

The Chancellor and Athletics Director Bubba Cunningham were asked about mask compliance at the Smith Center. Cunningham said that no one is admitted unless wearing a mask, but that so far Athletics has not asked volunteer ushers to police mask wearing after entry. Announcements are made throughout the game to remind people to wear masks. A FAC member suggested the concessions providers could help monitor mask wearing so that they may keep selling concessions.

III) Student-Athlete Admissions

Allison Legge, Interim Director of Undergraduate Admissions, reviewed student-athlete admissions with the combined committees. UNC Board of Trustees policy provides for the admission of students "who demonstrate special talent for University programs requiring such talent." The Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Admissions has approved intercollegiate athletics, music, and drama as requiring special talent. The Committee on Special Talent advises the Office of Undergraduate Admissions on the admission of these students, but Admissions has the final decision-making authority for all candidates for admission.

Isaac Unah is the chair of the Committee on Special Talent. The committee members are selected by the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and must consist of at least six voting members, the majority of whom must be tenured or tenure-track faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Of the almost 200 student-athletes admitted to Carolina each year, an average of 45 were recruited by athletics but were admitted independent of the special talent process. The remainder

(on average 152, approximately 3.6% of all first-year students) were admitted through the special talent process. Only a small fraction of that group requires review by the Special Talent Committee. The main filter is any student with a test score who has a predicted first-year GPA below 2.3, or any student without a test score whose NCAA core GPA is below 3.0. Only 7 students required review by the Committee on Special Talent prior to their 2021 enrollment.

For student-athletes who enrolled from 2014-2020, 98% have graduated, are still enrolled, or left eligible. For those students reviewed by the Committee on Special Talent, 94% have graduated, are still enrolled, or left eligible. Twenty-six percent of the Group 1 students left in good standing (eligible to compete) and may have transferred to another school or gone on to a professional sports opportunity. The Complete Carolina program provides financial support to those students to return to Carolina and graduate. For instance, baseball student-athletes often are drafted for professional baseball after their junior year and therefore have a low graduation rate (in the six-year window traditionally used to measure graduation). However, many of them return following their professional career and complete their degrees in the Complete Carolina program. Abigail Panter suggested compiling a report on the Complete Carolina program and its success.

In the current COVID environment, test scores are optional for students applying to Carolina. Sixty-five percent of all applicants presented test scores and 55% of student-athletes presented test scores for admission.

The qualifications of our entering student-athletes compare favorably with those of student-athletes in other groups (FBS, ACC, Higher or Tied with UNC, and System Peers). UNC student-athletes presented higher NCAA core GPAs than all other peer groups and second highest in test scores (the Higher or Tied group was first). Vince Ille reported that UNC's coaches have responded well to the challenge that we want our student-athletes to be at the top of these charts.

ASPSA and Student-Athlete Development work to support students in the transition to college to help students get off to a good start.

The number of student-athletes transferring into Carolina has increased over the years, as has the number of student-athletes who begin Carolina mid-year. Ten different sports had student-athletes enroll in January, with football student-athletes accounting for less than one-third of the mid-year enrollees. Transition programming is also provided to this group, but it is not as extensive as that available for students matriculating in the summer or fall.

The Chancellor thanked the admissions committees and admissions staff for their work on student-athlete admissions and processing the ever-increasing number of applications from all prospective students. He also thanked Michelle Brown and the ASPSA and Cricket Lane in Student-Athlete Development for their work in supporting the academic success of our students.

Respectfully submitted, Lissa Broome (with the assistance of Katie Sessoms)