

**Faculty Athletics Committee**  
**February 16, 2022 | 3 – 5 p.m.**  
**Location: Zoom**

**Minutes**

**Present: Committee Members:** Rita Balaban, Lissa Broome, Stacey Daughters Melissa Geil, Robert Martinez, Aimee McHale, Jay Smith, Abbie Smith-Ryan, Lisa Rahangdale, Keia Sanderson, Issac Unah, Erienne Weight

**Advisors:** Michelle Brown (ASPSA), Vince Ille (Athletics), Dwight Hollier (Athletics), Debbi Clarke (Provost's Office)

**Guests:** Robbi Pickeral Evans (Athletics), Amy Grau (Chancellor's Office), Cricket Lane (Athletics), Jenn Townsend (ASPSA), Kathy Zambrana (ASPSA)

I. Welcome and Preliminary Matters

FAC Chair, Melissa Geil, welcomed all and asked those present to introduce themselves.

Minutes. The minutes from the December and January meetings were unanimously approved.

Team Liaison Handout. Geil displayed the graphic for a handout for coaches and one for student-athletes discussing the role of the FAC team liaison. One suggestion was to include the name, department, and teams for each FAC member. Stacey Daughters and Jay Smith offered in chat that some coaches and students may not find a need for the team liaison and that we should be open to that. Debbi Clark commented that even if there is not a transactional need for a FAC liaison, the outreach by a FAC member presents an opportunity to build a relationship and make a connection with coaches. The meeting with the Head Coaches may be a good opportunity to discuss how a team liaison can provide support for the team.

Keia Sanderson on GoHeels. Geil referenced an article on [GoHeels](#) posted for Black History month, highlighting our own Keia Sanderson, a former track and field student-athlete at Rice University and noting her success as a pediatric nephrologist at UNC Hospitals and an assistant professor at the UNC School of Medicine.

Black History Month. In addition to highlighting former Black student-athletes, UNC Athletics honored two [2022 Tar Heel Trailblazers](#), Synthia Scott Kearney and Reggie McAfee, at halftime of the Florida State men's basketball game and at a reception following the game. Ms. Kearney and Mr. McAfee also addressed the men's basketball team during one of the team's practices.

Preview of March Agenda. Geil noted that the March 21 FAC meeting will include discussion of student-athlete mental health with Jeni Shannon from Sports Medicine, the progress on the Masters of Applied Professional Studies (MAPS) program with Dean Suzanne Barbour, and a draft letter to be prepared by Jay Smith from FAC encouraging faculty to accommodate student-athletes with excused absences for competition.

SAAC/FAC Focus Groups, March 23 at 6:00 p.m. These focus groups are scheduled for March 23 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor of Loudermilk. It might be helpful to prepare a list of actions taken (or in play) as a result of these focus group discussions. If student-athletes mention conflicts between practice times and courses, please get the specifics on which course, why it is needed, and which sport's practice it conflicts with. FAC should be thinking about items to cover in focus groups this semester with student-athletes competing for winter and spring sports, particularly areas where we would like more feedback from student-athletes.

FAC at the Head Coaches' Meeting, April 19, 8:30-9:30 a.m. FAC members are invited to join the April 19 head coaches' meeting from 8:30-9:30 in Loudermilk. Potential topics include: What is FAC? What is a team liaison and how can they help your team?

## II. FAC/SAC Focus Group Discussion

Aimee McHale and Jay Smith reviewed the summary report they prepared following the fall focus group meetings with SAAC students from fall sports. The overall experience reported by student-athletes is superb. Some issues we have heard about in the past were discussed again, including -- some inability to get desired classes, a few problems with professors not allowing student-athletes to make up quizzes missed for competition but forcing them to use that as their "dropped" quiz on the academic side -- to parking issues, and the continuing demand for more sports psychologists on the athletic side. One suggestion (which may need to be a conference-wide suggestion) is to create a uniform patch for student-athletes who have already completed an undergraduate degree.

## III. Faculty Athletics Representative Update

Faculty Athletics Representative Lissa Broome provided her report (attached). The NCAA Division I Transformation Committee has begun its work on an ambitious timeline pointing to August 2022. The Knight Commission's most recent report, *Connecting Athletics Revenues with the Educational Model of College Sports (CARE Model)*, was discussed at the NCAA Annual Convention. The NCAA's Committee on Academics has recommended that standardized test scores be removed from the NCAA's initial eligibility requirements.

The ACC governance groups met on February 9-11 and discussed a number of developments in college sports and in the conference. In addition, some specific changes were made to conference regular season competition travel limits, ACC championship reimbursements, student in uniform limits, and some championship formats.

## IV. ASPSA Update

Assistant Provost and Director of the Academic Support Program for Student-Athletes Michelle Brown updated the FAC. At half-time of the men's basketball game against Syracuse, the Athletic Director's Scholar-Athletes will be recognized – one student per team. Brown, McHale, and Abbie Smith-Ryan presented on working with student-athletes to the Equity in Teaching Institute hosted by the Center for Faculty Excellence. Faculty feedback forms are now open. ASPSA began asking for instructor feedback three times during a semester during the pandemic to get earlier feedback on student performance. Brown would appreciate ideas on how to

increase the response rate from instructors. ASPSA is currently interviewing for a tutor coordinator and an Associate Director focused on learning disabilities.

#### V. Communications and Recognition (Process 13.0)

Robbie Pickeral Evans, Senior Associate Athletic Director for External Affairs and Strategic Communications, noted how much the communications world had changed since Process 13.0 was last updated. There are now many different ways to tell stories and many different audiences with which to engage. She noted that the Athletics Department uses INFLCR which allows student-athletes to use Athletic Department photos on social media to help them build their personal brands (although these photos may not be used for specific NIL activities). Evans oversees Media Relations, Creative Services, Go Heels Productions, and Marketing and Sponsorships. Go Heels Productions produced about 200 events last year. Students from the Journalism School assist with many aspects of the production. Evans mentioned two important celebrations coming up in April – 50 Years of Title IX on May 23 and the Rammy’s on May 25.

Kathy Zambrana and Jenn Townsend from ASPSA work with an Awards Committee to nominate student-athletes for various school, ACC, and NCAA awards. Award winners are listed on the [ASPSA website](#). ASPSA hopes to hold an academic awards luncheon again this spring after the COVID hiatus. The Carolina Academic Excellence Award is given to the men’s and women’s team with the highest GPA. This year, that honor goes to Women’s Golf and Men’s Fencing.

#### VI. Potential Agenda Items for April, May, and June Retreat

Chancellor and the Athletics Department. Geil asked what issues the Chancellor or the Athletics Department would like faculty advice or guidance on.

Transfer Credits. How can the timeliness and accuracy of the advice provided to potential transfer students on transferable credits be improved?

Heel Zone Training and Related Issues. Smith-Ryan asked FAC members to review the information posted on Sakai site about a possible Heel Zone training and provide feedback to Smith-Ryan and McHale. Other ideas concerned establishing FAC departmental liaisons re athletics and collecting information on faculty and staff who participated in intercollegiate athletics.

Parting Thoughts. Members not returning to FAC should be prepared to share their parting thoughts at the April meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Lissa Broome with assistance from Amy Grau

Attachments

FAR Update

**Faculty Athletics Representative Update  
February 16, 2022**

**NCAA**

1. Transformation Committee reviewing Division I Bylaws on an ambitious timetable pointing to August 2022
2. Knight Commission, [Connecting Athletics Revenues with the Educational Model of College Sports \(CARE Model\)](#)
3. Committee on Academics to consider in February proposal from NCAA Standardized Task Force to eliminate the standardized test score from NCAA initial eligibility requirements
  - a. NCAA has waived test score for COVID for 2020, 2021, and 2022 matriculation
  - b. Any recommendation would be forwarded to the DI Council

**ACC**

1. Governance Groups (ADs, SWAs, and FARs) met February 9-11
  - a. Joint Group
    - i. Future of College Sport
      1. Transformation Committee
        - a. Membership – should there be a new subdivision?
        - b. Independence in decision-making – role of conference and institution
        - c. Enhancing SA experience – academics, health & safety, well-being
        - d. Analysis of existing rules
      2. Liability assessment – antitrust suits
      3. NLRB/FLSA
      4. Federal legislation (NIL, protections for SAs, limited antitrust protection)
    - ii. ACC's Internal Gender Equity Evaluation
    - iii. Conference office location assessment and staffing
    - iv. Report from ESPN – 2 years from launch to full distribution of the ACC Network
      1. All ACC spring football games will be televised
      2. Increase in television for WBB and Softball
    - v. ACC, Big 10, PAC 12 Alliance
      1. Competitions
      2. Celebrating 50 years of Title IX
      3. Multiple committees, including SA Support & Development, SA Health & Safety, Academics
    - vi. Recommendations from SWAs/ADs

1. Eliminate regular season ACC competition travel limits and leave up to the school
2. ACC Championship reimbursement will be higher of NCAA reimbursement or for participant limit plus countable coaches
3. ACC Championship elimination of limits on SAs in uniform for Olympic sports
4. Some changes to format in FH and Women's Soccer ACC Championships to facilitate rest and recovery; will result in additional missed class time for two teams advancing to championship

b. FAR Group

- i. Discussed Transformation Committee (via Zoom) with Cal-Berkeley FAR
- ii. Approved ACC Postgraduate Scholarships – 3 students per school, \$6,000 each (can be used within 6 years)
- iii. ACC Transfer Portal data tool