

**Annual Report to Faculty Council
From the Faculty Athletics Committee
2021-2022**

Submitted by Erianne A. Weight
Chair, Faculty Athletics Committee (2022-2023)
Professor, Exercise & Sport Science
December 2, 2022

Committee Overview

The Faculty Athletics Committee (FAC) “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], Amended 2/19/16).

Faculty Athletic Committee’s roster for 2021-2022:

Kevin Guskiewicz, Chancellor, ex officio

2021-22 Voting members:

Rita Balaban, Economics, 2022

Lissa Broome, School of Law, Faculty Athletics Representative, ex officio

Stacey Daughters, Psychology, 2023

Melissa Geil, Kenan-Flagler Business School, 2022 (Chair)

Amanda Holliday, Nutrition, 2023

Robert Martinez, Education, 2023 (Vice-Chair)

Aimee McHale, Gillings School of Global Public Health, 2022

Lisa Rahangdale, Obstetrics and Gynecology, 2024

Keia Sanderson, Nephrology, 2024

Jay Smith, History, 2023

Abbie Smith-Ryan, Exercise and Sport Science, 2022

Isaac Unah, Political Science, 2024

Erianne Weight, Exercise and Sport Science, 2024

Non-voting consultants:

Michelle Brown, ASPSA

Bubba Cunningham, Athletics

Dwight Hollier, Athletics

Robbi Pickeral Evans, Athletics

Vince Ille, Athletics

Katie Sessoms, Office of the Chancellor / Amy Grau, Office of the Chancellor

Duwe Farris, Student-athlete liaison from the Student-Athlete Advisory Council (Men’s Basketball)

Allessandra DeVito, Student-athlete liaison from the Student-Athlete Advisory Council (Rowing)

Leadership Structure

The Chair of the committee for 2021-22 was Melissa Geil. Robert Martinez served as Vice Chair. The committee met monthly with an agenda planning committee composed of the chair, vice-chair, FAR, and non-voting consultants. This group facilitated guest speakers, topics for discussion, and Progress Review Group work.

Discussion Topics, Actions, & Initiatives (2021-2022)

- June:
 - Athlete majors report
 - Degree completion report
 - Topic groups & academic process review
- August:
 - Team liaisons assigned; athlete representatives provided guidance on team liaison impact
 - Spring Academic Support Program for Student-Athletes report (Academic progress rate, graduation success rate, and federal graduation rate)
 - Alston Case update
 - Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) legislation update
 - NCAA External Gender Equity Review
 - Academic Progress Rate (APR) change for transferring athletes
 - NCAA Campus Sexual Violence Policy amendments
 - COVID-19 Fall 2021 sports update
 - ACC television negotiation
 - ACC-Big10-Pac 12 Alliance Update
- September:
 - Team liaison updates
 - NCAA Constitutional Review Committee update
 - ACC Medical Advisory Group guidance for operations in COVID-19 explained
 - ACC headquarter move search update
 - Carolina Student Legal Services and UNC School of LAW NIL Pro Bono Project
 - Discussion of amateurism post NIL
 - NCAA role in eligibility limits on financial aid to students
 - Student-athlete welfare and equity report
 - COVID-19 Fall 2021 Sports update
 - SpotterEDU discussion
- October:
 - Team liaison update
 - Mental health crisis across higher education – discussed Heels Network, Mental Health Task Force, and Mental Health Summit
 - Provost Search
 - ACC-CRIA Grant Program
 - Student-Athlete Mental Health update
 - NCAA Constitutional Review Committee / Convention
 - NCAA Standardized Test Task Force
 - National Labor Relations Board opinion
 - Update on Alston Case
 - Advising and priority registration
 - ASPSA Faculty event
 - Career fair for student-athletes
 - Head Coaches Meeting planning

- November:
 - Team liaison update
 - Mental health summit discussion
 - Constitutional convention
 - ACC Governance Groups update – conference office, ACC Network, Alliance, brand enhancement
 - ACC Advisory Committees' priorities: to position the ACC to be proactive and a leader on national issues; demonstrate a focus on the academic strength of student-athletes and provide them the necessary support; provide leadership on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion; support the Commissioner and his priorities; as well as identify communication needs and frequency for advisory group meetings in the new ACC governance structure.
 - ACC SAAC priorities: student-athlete engagement, academics, and mental health.
 - College Football Playoff discussion
 - General counsel to the NLRB has issued an opinion that student-athletes are employees
 - College Football Playoff expansion discussions update
 - Coaches Meeting debrief
 - Student-Athlete internships
 - ASPSA coach information packet – academic requirements
 - Discussion for upcoming FAC/SAAC focus groups
- December
 - NCAA Convention topics
 - Knight Commission CARE model (Connecting Athletics Revenues with the Educational Model of College Sport)
 - Heel Zone faculty training about athlete pressures
 - Transfer portal data
- January
 - Liaison communication infographic / info sheet
 - FAC-SAAC focus groups
 - NCAA Annual Convention – new constitution approved
 - ACC Faculty Athletics Representatives (FARs) Best Practices Meeting – transfer portal/trends
 - Graduate school options / information for athlete transfers
 - Academic Process Review pilot
 - Sport gambling being legalized in some states
 - Fan mask enforcement efforts
 - Athlete Fall term GPAs
 - Heel Zone discussion
- February
 - Team liaison handout
 - Black History Month Athletics Celebration of Trailblazers
 - FAC-SAAC Focus Group summary
 - Knight Commission CARE Model
 - Scholar-athletes to be recognized
 - Communication and recognition (Process 13.0)
- March
 - Student-Athlete mental health
 - Men's soccer season change proposal
 - Masters in Applied Professional Studies (MAPS) program

- April
 - 50th Anniversary of Title IX
 - Knight Commission CARE Model presentation / discussion
 - Medical decisions – national article discussion
 - Registration difficulties – practice/class time conflicts
- May
 - Head coaches meeting debrief
 - Election results – plan for departing/welcoming members
 - Budget (Process 14.0)
 - Majors/clustering report
 - University approved absences letter
 - FAC-SAAC focus group comments
 - Reflections from departing FAC members

Academic Processes for Student-Athletes (2013-2022)

In Fall 2013, Provost James W. Dean, Jr. and Director of Athletics Bubba Cunningham brought together a 10-person team of campus leaders to comprehensively document and assess all academic processes that affect student-athletes from the time that they are recruited until after they graduate. With Chancellor Carol L. Folt's support, Dean and Cunningham led the Student-Athlete Academic Initiative Working Group in this effort. The Working Group was charged to look holistically at academic processes for student athletes and improve student-athletes' experience at Carolina. The Working Group met at least once per month between November 2013 and March 2015. By summer 2015, the Working Group had documented, assessed and in some cases changed, a comprehensive set of 21 academic processes for student-athletes, from the time they are recruited until after they graduate. The Group considered and responded to more than 70 recommendations from nine reports about athletics and academics at UNC-Chapel Hill published during the previous four years.

With leadership and coordination provided from the Provost's Office by Dr. Debbi Clarke, the Working Group compiled and posted its documentation of these processes FAC Onboarding Document – updated June 2021 at <http://apsa.unc.edu> (academic processes for student-athletes). The Working Group was then transitioned into the Process Review Group (PRG), with many of the same members, whose goal was to review each process over the course of a two-year period. The PRG met two or more times each semester to review and improve each of the processes through Spring 2018. In the summer of 2018, the PRG was sunset and the function of reviewing the academic processes on a regular basis was transferred to the FAC, with any recommended policy changes referred to the Executive Committee on Student-Athlete Academics.

Its members in 2021-2022 were:

- Provost Bob Blouin
- Athletic Director Bubba Cunningham
- Faculty Athletics Representative Lissa Broome
- ASPSA Director Michelle Brown
- Senior Associate Athletics Director Vince Ille
- Senior Associate Athletics Director Dwight Hollier (Student-Athlete Health, Well-Being & Program Outreach)
- Associate Athletic Director for Compliance Marielle van Gelder
- Associate Provost Dr. Debbi Clarke

Between 2018 – 2022, much FAC time was devoted to the oversight and process implementation relative to the Process Review which was necessary as we transitioned to a new oversight structure. Two FAC members were assigned to one of six Topic Groups and each of the 21 academic processes described on the website (<http://apsa.unc.edu>) is assigned to one of the topic groups to assist in reviewing and updating when necessary. In addition, the Topic Group could recommend to FAC a change in an academic process or policy, and if the other members of FAC agree that such a change is warranted, the recommendation will be forwarded to the Executive Committee on Student-Athlete Academics and the Chancellor for consideration.

In 2021-2022, our FAR, Professor Lissa Broome, in collaboration with the Executive Committee on Student-Athlete Academics prepared a timeline for the process review that is now followed with each of the 21 topics to be thoroughly reviewed by the FAR, Executive Committee, and assigned FAC members at least once every other year.