

**Annual Report to Faculty Council
From the Faculty Athletics Committee
2022-2023**

Submitted by Erianne A. Weight
Chair, Faculty Athletics Committee (2022-2024)
Professor, Exercise & Sport Science
March 18, 2024

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]).

Faculty Athletic Committee’s roster for 2022-2023:

Kevin Guskiewicz, Chancellor, ex officio

2022-2023 Voting members:

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

David Berkoff, Orthopaedics, 2025

Stacey Daughters, Psychology, 2023

Kathleen Fitzgerald, Sociology, 2025

Amanda Holliday, Nutrition, 2023

Robert Martinez, Education, 2023

Aimee McHale, Public Health Leadership Program, 2025

Lisa Rahangdale, Obstetrics and Gynecology, 2024

Keia Sanderson, Nephrology, 2024

Jay Smith, History, 2023

Abbie Smith-Ryan, Exercise and Sport Science, 2025 (Vice-Chair)

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

Amy Grau, Office of the Chancellor

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

Natalie Timinkas, Student-athlete liaison from the Student-Athlete Advisory Council (Rowing)

Leadership Structure

The Chair of the committee for 2022-23 was Erianne Weight. Abbie Smith-Ryan served as Vice Chair.

Discussion Topics, Actions, & Initiatives (2022-2023)

- August:
 - Challenges to the historic amateurism model of intercollegiate athletics (Guskiewicz)
 - Process Review Group update from 2021-2022 – outline of proposed reviews for 2022-2023
 - NCAA legislative changes
 - Study abroad and internship opportunities for UNC student-athletes
 - ACC graduation patches for athletes who have received their undergraduate degree (suggested in UNC's FAC/SAAC focus group the previous year)
 - Athletics annual report in production – includes information on Complete Carolina, an opportunity for student-athletes who left UNC to pursue a professional athletic career to return to UNC to complete their degree with the same level of scholarship support they had while originally enrolled.
 - Summer transition programming for entering student-athletes.
 - Academic Scorecard is being finalized.
 - Goal to bring most tutoring back to in-person with zoom availability for those who are travelling.
 - ASPSA working with the University Approved Absence Office regarding student-athlete travel letters.
 - FAC team liaisons assigned – discussion of how to best connect with teams.
 - Building on beginning-of-the-year FAC survey, vision and action steps for 2022-2023 were completed in small groups:
 - Faculty-athletics-athlete relationships:
 - Build the connection between FAC-SAAC and Athletics. We're all on the same team.
 - Graduate program opportunities for athletes:
 - Facilitate opportunities for transfer students (<1 year grad programs), flexible admissions timelines, admissions feasibility <3.0 UG GPA threshold. Streamlined process.
 - Dropped quiz policy.
 - Get consensus from FAC and approval of FC and dissimilation to general faculty.
 - Student-athlete health
 - Assess and address accessibility of Mental Health resources
 - Assess impact of NIL on MH
 - Assess updates on scope of nutrition services for student athletes.
 - Athletics Governance
 - Gather and disseminate ideas of faculty on pressing issues, national and local.
 - Parking
 - Facilitate additional parking options for athletes
- September
 - NCAA transfer student window and scholarship protection established.
 - Career fair for junior and senior athletes
 - Major/minors fair for first- and second-year athletes
 - National discussion about the appropriate governance structure for football by LEAD1 Association
 - Conference realignment in the PAC12 and Big10, the ACC grant of rights through 2036 inhibits any schools from leaving the ACC.
 - Graduate program opportunities for athletes: MAPS program
 - FAC members will help Kuizin make connections with departments so she

- can advocate for MAPS students.
 - Faculty/athletics/athlete relations
 - Summary of FAC accomplishments to be shared with the coaches
 - FACts document compiled with bios and pictures of FAC members to facilitate liaison relationships
 - Parking:
 - Discussion of ideas: early morning/late night passes, shuttles at different times of the day.
 - Dropped Quiz Policy:
 - Draft letter recirculated – committee members will meet with professors of large classes to discuss concerns.
- October (FAC – Head Coaches Meeting)
 - Round-table discussion: How can FAC help athletes maximize their academic experiences:
 - Find alternative times for courses semester to semester & year to year (particularly in Shuford and EXSS)
 - Explore missed class policy
 - Additional credit options for athletes (leadership academy)
 - Design Thrive courses to support student-athletes
- November (FAC – SAAC Discussion Groups)
 - Round-table discussion: How can FAC enhance your Carolina experience:
 - Help with athlete-academic time concerns.
 - Mental health and off days should be enforced.
 - Travel days – maintain the limit of 7 missed days.
 - Make sure that coaches stick to the noted end-time for practice because when it goes over it makes it difficult to eat/get to class on time.
 - Enhance mental health resources:
 - There are always long waitlists, and it makes them feel as though their mental health is not a priority.
 - One-on-one confidential counseling is what is primarily needed as the variety of issues are so varied.
 - Group counselling has been helpful, but sometimes it is a lot of time.
 - Access to classes:
 - It would be helpful if they varied their practice time in fall/spring so they could get classes that are always offered at the same time.
 - There are some majors that are inaccessible to athletes due to lab schedules that conflict with practice schedules.
 - Access to food:
 - The training table is really wonderful, however there were concerns about the fueling stations / locker room snacks. SAAC has additional data.
- January (Joint meeting with Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Committee on Special Talent)
 - Committee Reports
 - New NCAA President
 - D1 Transformation Committee Final Report released. Recommendations include:
 - Elevating support for athletes' mental, physical, and academic well-being
 - Enhancing the D1 Championship experience
 - Building a faster, fairer, more equitable D1
 - Knight Commission report discussion:
 - Align revenue distribution with values

- Independent directors on all NCAA governing bodies
 - College Football Playoff should be responsible for expenses associated with FBS football including enforcement, insurance, and litigation.
 - Report on LEAD1 AD recommendations
 - Drake Group letter to the Office of Civil Rights requesting guidance on Title IX and NIL.
- February (Met with ASPSA Academic Advisors)
 - Instructor feedback reports
 - Athlete academic banquet announced
 - AD Scholar-Athlete recognitions
 - NCAA one-time transfer exception recommendation
 - Academic Process Review is continuing
 - Finalizing reviews done in Fall 2022
 - 2.0 Admissions
 - 8.0 Faculty Relations and Governance
 - 9.0 Class Attendance and Travel
 - 15.0 Facility Use and Programming
 - 19.0 Supporting Non-Participant Student-Athletes
 - Awaiting proposed revisions for Spring 2023 review
 - 1.0 Recruitment
 - 3.0 Financial Aid
 - 5.0 Enrollment and Advising
 - 6.0 Registration
 - 12.0 Academic Performance and Monitoring
 - Faculty participation in field hockey and volleyball head coach searches
 - Athlete report on mental health training at recent SAAC meeting
 - UNC applied to host 11 NCAA events over the next few years and was awarded 14 events.
 - At the ACC meetings, the ADs met with the ACC Chancellors and Presidents. There was discussion of a potential new conference revenue distribution model, but it is likely that the current model (equal splitting of revenue) will continue.
 - UNC head and assistant coaches will receive EOC training at their next meeting.
 - Cunningham has joined the board of the USOPC and at its recent meeting, the board discussed what an employee model for intercollegiate athletes would mean for the support provided for Olympic sports.
 - ASPSA – FAC discussion of athlete academic experiences.
- March (ASPSA Meeting Debrief)
 - Time commitment/boundaries for academic counselors
 - Messaging faculty about submitting book orders to UNC Student Stores so that scholarship athletes may receive their books
 - Approved absence policy/travel letters
 - Meaningful exit interviews – process and follow-up
 - For-credit options for athletes
 - Transition in (Thrive, personal branding)
 - Leadership
 - Financial literacy
 - Sport psychology
 - Transition out
 - 8-week courses at peer institutions advantageous.
 - Communicating with faculty

Submitted respectfully by Erianne A. Weight, FAC Chair 2022-2024