

FACULTY ATHLETICS COMMITTEE NOTES

Monday, January 8 | 3:30 – 5 p.m.

Location: South Building, Suite 105

ATTENDEES

FACULTY ATHLETICS COMMITTEE:

David Berkoff, Lissa Broome, Cassandra Davis, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Kevin Guskiewicz (part of meeting), Shawn Kane, Aimee McHale, Abbie Smith-Ryan, Carmina Valle, Erianne Weight

ADVISORS:

Michelle Brown (ASPSA), Dwight Hollier (Athletics), Robbi Pickeral Evans, Cricket Lane (Athletics), Izzy Schwam (Athletics)

GUESTS:

Jesus Enriquez (Chancellor's Fellow), Amy Grau (Chancellor's Office)

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GOALS FOR MEMBERS

FAC Chair, Erianne Weight, outlined the four goals identified by FAC for 2023-24 and asked FAC members to discuss what they had done to advance the committee's work in these areas.

Facilitation for-credit opportunities for SAs

- See later in the Notes for discussion lead by Cricket Lane on Leadership Course for SAs.

Support well-being and mental health of SAs

- Abbie Smith-Ryan suggested a survey of SAs on mental health. She was particularly interested in differences between teams in terms of how mental health services were provided and whether the team had regular team meetings focused on mental health and performance issues.
 - This could be a discussion point for FAC team liaison with their teams this spring.
- Cricket Lane will add FAC members to outreach messages to SAs about mental health issues.
- Lane will also circulate a list of SAAC members to FAC so FAC liaisons can see who the SAAC members are for their teams.
- Kathleen Fitzgerald wondered whether SAs who are not in season are getting to take full advantage of the University's Wellness Days or whether athletically-related activities are still scheduled on these days.
- Smith-Ryan urged FAC to advocate for recording classes that could be available to SAs and others with excused absences.
- Information collected by FAC members from their teams suggests that the Cobb and Craige decks are underutilized during the practice/lifting times for some teams.

- FAC members should provide any additional datapoints and FAC should consider a strategy for how to better utilize University parking resources.
- FAC should also revisit hardship parking for SAs with injuries and/or seeking treatment at Sports Medicine.
- Another issue to explore is parking for SAs when they have team travel.

Build Relationships between faculty, SAs, coaches, and others who support SAs

- Weight noted that educating faculty about SA success is a way to advance this goal.
 - Faculty Council will receive the SA Academic Scorecard as part of the FAC/FAR annual report to Faculty Council.
- Kathleen Fitzgerald wondered whether departmental faculty meetings might be effective venues in which to talk to faculty about SAs and their academic performance.
 - Could focus on the departments with concentrations of SA majors and perhaps meet with them every fall.
 - Might consider inviting SAs majoring in those areas to attend for the presentation.
- Aimee McHale suggested inviting faculty members to the Academic Banquet and showcasing the faculty invited by the top ten SAs as well as the remarks given by those SAs.

Position UNC to make informed decisions in rapidly changing collegiate environment

- Lissa Broome relayed a discussion with Faculty Chair Beth Moracco about scheduling a session on the Future of Intercollegiate Athletics.
 - Chancellor Guskiewicz thought it was important to have faculty voices heard on these issues.
 - UNC could be a leader on some of these issues, as it was when it separated sports medicine from athletics and when the faculty created new policies and checks in the wake of improper classes in the former AFAM department.

ASPSA UPDATE

- Michelle Brown, Director of ASPSA, reported that the student-athlete GPA will be frozen on the coming Friday, but that it will be at least a 3.2.
- Thanks to a good partnership with Academic Advising, every student-athlete fulfilled their advising requirement.
- NCAA Academic Progress Rate (APR) final numbers will be released in May. UNC's numbers will qualify us for the NCAA academic unit payment which goes to the ACC and then is distributed back to the member institutions.
- At least 47 freshman and transfer students matriculated in the spring semester, the most ever. These students are involved in transition programming provided by the University and ASPSA.
- ASPSA is piloting sending out travel letters for Men's Lacrosse and Men's Golf through the University's Approved Absence Office this spring. The student-athletes will also receive a hard copy of the travel letters to give to faculty.

- ASPSA is piloting a textbook ordering system this spring for those student-athletes from Gymnastics and Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving who receive a book scholarship as part of their athletically related financial aid package. Instead of the Textbook Coordinator submitting requests for materials (for which the print format is the default), students will be able to pick the format they prefer (electronic or print) and order any books recommended for the course.
 - FAC should discuss with the Registrar whether faculty are or can be reminded before every semester to submit their book orders to UNC Student Stores since students who receive financial aid for books (like student-athletes) may only use these funds for book purchases through Student Stores.
- The academic banquet, celebrating student-athlete academic successes, will be held the first reading day of the exam period.

FAR UPDATE

- Lissa Broome reported that the NCAA annual convention is being held this week in Phoenix, AZ.
 - The Division I Council is expected to take action on Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) that will likely include:
 - Voluntary registration for all NIL service providers with specific info collected at registration
 - Mandatory SA disclosure of NIL agreements over \$600 to institution within 30 days of executing agreement
 - Institution reports twice a year to NCAA aggregate, anonymized info
 - Concerns expressed about tying eligibility to compete to this disclosure
 - PSAs to disclose NIL prior to written offers of financial aid.
 - An amendment has been proposed to delay time of reporting to after signing
 - NCAA to establish standardized contracts for use in NIL agreements, including best practices and education on contractual obligations.
 - NCAA to manage comprehensive educational programming, including taxes and brand management.
 - Infraction penalties – legislation to establish meaningful infractions penalties for individuals responsible for underlying rules violations.
 - Nontraditional courses – HS courses part of NCAA core may be taken in online format.
- D1 Council – January Items to Review
 - Sports wagering guidelines with increased flexibility for certain types of sports wagering violations; determine if legislative changes needed or are appropriate.
- NCAA President Baker's December 5 letter
 - Notes disparity in athletic budgets within D1

- 59 schools spend over \$100 million
 - 32 schools spend over \$50 million
 - Yet only 1.8% of budgets from A5 schools is paid for by student fees, compared with 14018% of the budgets for the remainder of D1
 - Challenges from this cap are competitive and financial and are complicated by intersection of NIL and the transfer portal.
 - Proposals:
 - All D1 schools should be able to offer SAs “any level of enhanced educational benefits they deem appropriate”
 - D1 schools should be able to enter into (at their choice) NIL deals with their SAs
 - Death of Collectives?
 - Title IX’s application to school-based NIL
 - A new subdivision of schools with the highest resource to invest in SAs should be required to:
 - Consistent with Title IX, invest at least \$30,000 per year into an enhanced education trust fund for at least half of the institution’s eligible SAs
 - Commit to create subdivision rules that could be different from the rest of D1 and include a wide range of policies, such as scholarship commitment, roster size, recruitment, transfers or NIL.
- ACC
 - Conference meetings held October 19-20; new members attended.
 - ACC post-graduate scholarships reduced from 3 to 2 per school but amount increased from \$6000 to \$9000.
- UNC
 - Weight, Grau, Cunningham and Broome met with Beth Moracco, Faculty Chair, on January 5th, 2024, to onboard her and talk about FAC/FAR presentation to the faculty council on February 23, 2024.
 - Discussion about organizing a separate forum for the University community to discuss the future of intercollegiate athletics.
 - Could introduce the various challenges facing intercollegiate athletics and engage in discussion about what do members of the academy want intercollegiate athletics to look like in the future.
 - External discussion with faculty and others coordinated by the governance and admi topic group.
 - Parking meeting on Oct 18th with Bubba Cunningham, Clint Gwaltney, Cheryl Stout, Aimee McHale and Lissa Broome.
 - FAC members to determine team-specific parking challenges and parking availability in nearby lots during those times.
 - Stout to request Chapel Hill Transit to consider a bus stop at the Track & Field Complex and Finley practice fields on the B line.

- Brown and Broome are meeting weekly to get the Academic Processes for Student-Athletes review on track. Material from the processes reviewed in 2022-23 is being edited and posted at APSA.unc.edu.

LEADERSHIP COURSE UPDATE

- Cricket Lane is working on a proposed syllabus for a for-credit Leadership Course for student-athletes.
- She is using 'Game Plan' platform that allows content experts to upload content to the platform
- Next step is to finalize the proposed syllabus and share it with Nick Siedentop
- What department would the course be offered through? Perhaps Interdisciplinary Studies.
 - Would enrollment be limited to student-athletes?

ACTION ITEMS

- Figure out Syllabus and plan for Leadership Course
- Parking follow up – Erienne to get data out to group
- Survey SAs to see what's working with mental health support and/or FAC liaisons to discuss with their teams
- Ask Registrar to be sure that faculty reminded prior to each semester to submit a book order to Student Stores so that those receiving financial aid may use it for their books

Respectfully submitted, Lissa Broome (with assistance from Jesus Enriquez)