

FACULTY ATHLETICS COMMITTEE NOTES

Monday, February 5 | 3:30 – 5 p.m.

Location: South Building, Suite 105

ATTENDEES

FACULTY ATHLETICS COMMITTEE: Lissa Broome, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Shawn Kane, Aimee McHale, Abbie Smith-Ryan, Issac Unah, Carmina Valle, Erienne Weight

SAAC REPRESENTATIVES: Kiersten Thomassey (Field Hockey), Sully Shelton (Track & Field)

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

GUESTS:

Michael Davis (Admissions), Jason McGrath (Admissions), Jesus Enriquez (Chancellor's Fellow), Amy Grau (Chancellor's Office), Shelby Swanson (DTH), Josiah Young (student)

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ADMISSIONS PRESENTATION/QUESTIONS

- Chair Erienne Weight welcomed Jason McGrath, Associate Provost, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, and Michael Davis, Senior Associate Director of Admissions, to the meeting.
- [Link](#) to presentation.
 - 11 SAs required review by the Committee on Special Talent.
 - Of 2,270 SAs admitted from 2016-2022, 99.87% have graduated, are still enrolled, or left eligible. Only 3 SAs left academically ineligible.
 - Undergraduate transfers were at 33 for 2023, the highest ever. Undergraduate transfers with a college GPA below 2.5 are also reviewed by the Committee on Special Talent.
- The UNC System's test optional policy will sunset for students matriculating in 2025 if the UNC System does not reinstate it. At the time of the meeting, no decision had been made.

ASPSA UPDATE

- Michelle Brown, Assistant Provost and Director of ASPSA, reported that she has been working with Vince Ille to finalize UNC's annual Intercollegiate Athletics Report to the UNC System office.
- The AD Scholar-Athlete for each team will be celebrated at halftime of the men's basketball game against Miami on February 26.

- The travel letter and textbook pilot programs are underway and going well.
- University Approved Absences Subcommittee of Educational Policy Committee is looking at how to streamline the University's attendance policy. It has been five years since the policy was developed and the Subcommittee is trying to streamline the policy to emphasize the policy and remove the procedure. Brown was asked by the Subcommittee to gather feedback from FAC. She provided the feedback to the subcommittee along with the letter regarding dropped quizzes that FAC drafted several years ago. SAs want the opportunity to complete work that they missed for a University Approved Absence but faculty, especially in large classes, have trouble meeting educational objectives (returning quizzes promptly) and providing an alternative assessment for those with excused absences. Attendance policies vary from university to university. Some universities have more online classes than we do.
- At Brown's urging, the Subcommittee reviewed a letter regarding dropped quizzes that FAC drafted several years ago. SAs want the opportunity to complete work that they missed for a University Approved Absence but faculty, especially in large classes, have trouble meeting educational objectives (returning quizzes promptly) and providing an alternative assessment for those with excused absences. Attendance policies vary from university to university. Some universities have more online classes than we do.
- The committee tried to brainstorm solutions for how to handle class absences. It would be helpful to clarify the policy and provide examples of things that work well and things that are punitive. Brown asked faculty to provide ideas that she could bring forward to the committee.
 - The SAs suggested:
 - A take home quiz relating to a course learning objective.
 - Leaving a quiz open for the day (quizzes can be left open for just specific students) so students could complete when they were not traveling or competing.

FAR UPDATE

- NCAA Convention was held in January.
- D1 Council – Approved at Convention
 - NIL
 - Voluntary registration for all NIL service providers with specific info collected at registration
 - Mandatory SA disclosure of NIL agreements > \$600 to institution within 30 days of executing agreement
 - 1. Institution reports twice a year to NCAA aggregate anonymized info
 - 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.
- NCAA President Baker's December 5 letter (Project D1) discussed by D1 Board of Directors- 3 prongs now on different timelines.
 - All D1 schools should be able to offer SAs "any level of enhanced educational benefits they deem appropriate"
 - D1 Council Coordinating Committee is setting up a working group on educational expenses that will be populated heavily by autonomy schools.
 - Meaning of "enhanced educational benefits" up for discussion. Could include funds to support internships and/or study abroad.
 - D1 Schools should be able to enter into (at their choice) NIL deals with their SAs
 - But now saying no direct payments by schools
 - But more institutional involvement with NIL will be up for vote by Council in April and likely to be end of that discussion for awhile
 - Subdivisional structure (not to be considered in short term – pushed out until later) -- A new subdivision of schools with the highest resources to invest in SAs should be required to:
 - Consistent with Title IX, invest at least 30,000 per year into an enhanced educational trust fund for at least half of the institution's eligible SAs
 - Will likely not be addressed in the short term
 - Commit to create subdivision rules that could be different from the rest of D1 and include a wide range of policies, such as scholarships commitment, roster size, recruitment, transfers, or NIL.
- NCAA Committee on Academics, virtual meeting on February 1st
 - Four-Year Transfer Review – Areas identified for additional study.
 - Transferring student must be eligible at departing school and meet PTD at new school.
 - Proposal already made and then pulled by COA because it does not work.
 - New academic metric regarding graduation rate for transfer SAs
 - If permanently eliminate year in residence on second undergraduate transfer (now removed under a court injunction) then may need to reconsider
 - Mid-Year transfer rules
 - Notification of Transfer in transfer portal windows
 - To be considered at April 17-18 Council meeting and then reviewed by Board of Directors on April 22
 - Post Season penalties for APR < 930 will be imposed this year
 - Waiver and appeal process ongoing for the 35 squads affected.

- Advisory Groups (ADs, SWAs, FARs) meet February 12-13
 - Award ACC Post-Graduate Scholarships and ACC Excellence Award
 - Schedule changes and ACC Championship changes related to conference expansion
 - ACC SAAC Proposal for ACC to require its institutions to have by August 1, 2025
 - 1 licensed mental health clinician per 250 SAs
 - By August 1, 2027 1 licensed mental health clinician per 150 SAs
 - 1 sports psychologist per 500 SAs
 - Annual mental health certification ranking for all athletic staff administered by US Center for Mental Health and Sport
 - Brand discussion
 - Legal update
- Board of Directors meet February 13-14

UNC

- Process review,
 - Posted revisions to
 - 1.0 Recruiting
 - 3.0 Financial Aid
 - 5.0 Enrollment and Advising
 - 6.0 Registration
 - 12.0 Academic Performance Monitoring
- Posted in Canvas – [Link](#)

APPROVE DECEMBER MINUTES

- The December and January minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

DISCUSSION

- **Student Government.** Christopher Holliday, the Chair of SAAC and Josiah Young are working to see whether UNC's student government structure can add a liaison position between SAs and student government. This idea was inspired, in part, by an article from the Stanford Daily ([Link](#)) expressing support for Stanford SAs.
- **University Approved Absences and Dropped Assessment.** Discussed under ASPSA Update.
- **First-year Course for SAs for Credit.** No update.
- **FAC communication plan.** Weight will circulate an email asking FAC to provide additional ideas for Michelle to take to the Subcommittee working on missed assessments during University Approved Absences.
- **Support Well-being and Mental Health of SA.** Related to the ACC SAAC proposal, could the ACC put money into training programs for mental health professionals? Dwight

Hollier said that through donors, UNC had been able to create a minority Mental Health Fellow position that is helping to increase cultural competence.

- Is there a better alternative to the Calm App provided by the ACC? Perhaps something that offers more resources like Voice in Sport (for female SAs).
- The new case worker should be helpful in facilitating scheduling appointments for SAs. This could help with some of the concerns about timely access to a mental health professional.
- The DTH is working with other student newspapers on a mental health edition.
- Shawn Kane noted the importance of the MH professionals having time to spend with the team in informal settings. Hollier said the staff provides group sessions for most teams and often try to attend practices.

ACTION ITEMS

- Brown asked FAC members to provide examples of how to handle assessments that are missed when a SA has a University Excused Absence for travel/competition that she could bring forth to the committee discussing this issue.

Respectfully submitted, Lissa Broome with assistance from Jesus Enriquez