

PROVOST'S ATHLETICS OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

Academic Integrity & NCAA Rules

Compliance Institutional Control

Student-Athlete Welfare

PAOC Meeting of September 1, 2021

12:30-1:30PM

Virtual Teams Meeting

In attendance: Patrick Vickers, Bret Cowley, Randy Kennedy, Milton Overton, Tamica Jones, Daniel Niederjohn, Austin Brown, M.A. Karim, Mark Geil, Wes Rhea, Mark Warner, Ivan Pulinkala, Mindy Debruce, Aaron Goodwin, Andrew Whittmayer, Ryan McLemore, Sonia Toson, Aaron Howell, Lisa Bauer

Welcome, and Introductions: Dr. Dan Niederjohn called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. and reviewed the purpose of the council.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the April 4, 2021 meeting were approved as distributed.

State of the Department: Milton Overton, Director of Athletics, expressed his thanks to all for their support and reported on a strong state of the department. The last 2-3 semesters have been the strongest academically in the history of our athletic dept. Our grades continue to trend in the right direction and credit goes to our coaches and all involved. Milton reminded the committee that, as part of the academic community, Athletics must ensure that they contribute to the advancement of the R2 roadmap.

He provided an overview of the strategic plan and shared his thoughts on the new model of student athletes being able to move to another institution and play right away. We are going to see a much larger volume of transfers; we must have great programs and academic credibility and be attractive to the best and brightest. This is going to involve some creativity; we must take advantage of and grow in a new marketplace.

Athletics has a new contract with Influencer, a company that provides online resources to help athletes understand their brand recognition, social media accounts, and generating resources. Athletics is also working with the Coles College of Business to create more education around these new business opportunities (contracts, investing, exclusivity agreements, tax consequences, etc.) for student athletes.

We will count on everyone to help us position ourselves in the changing marketplace. We cannot be stagnant; we will create a new environment to provide for growth.

Tamica Jones has been working on the Strategic plan for several months and is working to complete the process. Our vision is to provide the best collegiate experience that promotes a comprehensive success for our student athletes.

Feedback has been solicited from staff, coaches, and this council to provide feedback.

The plan's 5 guiding pillars are:

- Athletic Sustainability
- Communication Amongst internal and external partners
- Building a championship culture
- Student athlete welfare
- Growth

The plan's five strategic focus areas are:

- Academic Achievement
- Athletic excellence
- Stakeholder communication and engagement
- Financial Growth and Innovation
- Athletic Facilities Enhancement

Next steps will be presenting findings to all staff and creating action plans and quarterly reports. It will roll out to the public soon.

Student-Athlete Welfare and SAAC Update – Mindy DeBruce, Associate Athletic Director for Administration, is excited about the new leadership of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee. They do great work and are representing all teams. Most sports have 2 representatives and larger programs have upward of 4-6. She introduced Aaron Goodwin, Senior from Track and Field, who feels that the resources we have are incredible. He appreciates all the support, including SAAC, to help maintain strong academics.

Mindy shared her pride in SAAC and their leadership; they will continue to grow funds to support initiatives, including fueling stations. She introduced Andrew Wittmayer, SGA VP, who offered assistance to the group and to student athletes. Just reach out to him or Amani.

Mindy's office is working on engaging another check in for diversity and inclusion, as well as reviewing the requirement for a 5-year review (a requirement in 2022).

Mark Geil from Wellstar directed a question to Aaron Goodwin regarding what athletes are saying about Name, Image and Likeness. Aaron indicated that there are some rumblings, but no big discussion right now. He feels confident that there will be soon.

Compliance Report and NCAA News – Bret Cowley, Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance shared how Name, Image and Likeness is changing the landscape of collegiate athletics. Boosters/Companies are approaching athletes with offers and our department cannot be involved in that. NCAA recently reminded us of that. Our partnership with Influencer will help our student athletes to build their brand. Student athletes can get help with their Social media, developing their brand to make them appealing to companies, and becoming highly marketable. Student athletes can also go into the system and share their deal so it can be approved. We have a couple of student athletes now with potential deals.

A possible new structure for NCAA will put more responsibility back on the conference affiliation and on the schools themselves. Feedback has been requested on what this should look like. This change should provide for more timely response to issues.

Student-Athlete Academic Update – Randy Kennedy, Associate Athletic Director for

Academic Services, shared the academic success of our teams from last year, including a 3.17 GPA (attachment A). He offered his congratulations to all our student athletes, despite their challenges of last year.

APR data is due Oct 4 so he and his team will be working on that. He shared how the changes for student transfers is modifying the way we operate and how it is increasing opportunity for quality student athletes, including graduate students.

He shared information on delays for taking the ACT and/or SAT, funding for new software solutions, and moving into the new academic building.

FAR and Admission Advisory Committee Update – Dan Niederjohn, Faculty Athletics Representative and Associate Professor of Psychology

Due to time constraints, Dr. Niederjohn will cover his report at the November 3 meeting. The November 3 meeting will be scheduled longer than one hour.

Other Business

Future Meeting Dates are November 3, 2021, February 2, 2022 and April 27, 2022.

Milton recognized new Interim Provost, Ivan Pulinkala. Dr. Pulinkala and his family have provided much support to Athletics. Milton shared appreciation for their contributions, including the significant gift associated with the Honors college.

Dr. Pulinkala expressed his thanks to the group and to Dr. Niederjohn and Athletic Director Overton for their leadership. What an honor to be a part of this group and learn more about these developments. Having recently attended a basketball practices, he expressed how gratifying it was to see the energy, the excitement, and the enthusiasm of our student athletes. They are certainly ambassadors for KSU.

Dr. Niederjohn adjourned the meeting at 1:36 p.m.

The Provost's Athletic Advisory Council approved the September 1, 2021 minutes on November 3, 2021.

DocuSigned by:

Lisa Bauer

January 21, 2022

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DocuSigned by:

Dan Niederjohn

January 23, 2022

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Dr. Dan Niederjohn, Chair



2020-21 STUDENT-ATHLETE ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Student-Athlete GPA for the 2020-21 year: 3.17

Deans List: Fall 2020: 122 Spring 2021: 93

Presidential Scholars: Fall 2020: 65 Spring 2021: 67

- 209 Student-Athletes recognized on ASUN Honor Roll; This was 74.6%
- 41 Football student-athletes named to the Big South Presidential Honor roll
- William Nana Fabu and Bryson Armstrong were named to Football FCS ADA Academic All-Star team
- Nana Fabu was also to the Big South All-Academic Team

Teams Receiving National Association Recognition for Academic Excellence:

- Men's Tennis and Women's Tennis (ITA -All Academic Team)
- Men's and Women's Track and Field (USTFCCCA All-Academic Honors)
- Women's Lacrosse (IWLCA Academic Honor Squad)
- Men's Golf (GCAA All-American Scholars)
- Women's Golf (WGCA All-American Scholars)
- Women's Soccer (WCWS All-Academic Team)



Marissa Gore (LAX) was named ASUN Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year as well as being named the 2021 SPCEET Outstanding Undergraduate Student of the Year, and was also awarded the prestigious ASUN Postgraduate Scholarship Award

Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars

Bri Becerra, Volleyball

Kameron Downs, Soccer

Amani Johnson, W. Basketball

Terrence Norman, Baseball

Raleigh Williams, Softball

Jasmine Brown, Volleyball

Jordan Hewing, M. Track

Will Nana Fabu, Football

Carson Pearson, Lacrosse

Brea Dickey, Softball

Malik Hussie, M. Track

Kyarra Newton, W. Track

Sisely Vongphasouk, Lacrosse