

**PROVOST'S ATHLETICS OVERSIGHT COUNCIL**

**Academic Integrity & NCAA Rules**

**Compliance Institutional Control**

**Student-Athlete Welfare**

**PAOC Meeting Notes for November 2, 2023**

**12:30-1:45PM**

**KHE 1203**

In attendance: Lisa Bauer, Austin Brown, Tricia Chastain, Stacy Delacruz, Matthew Iwanski, AJ Johnson, Tamica Jones, M.A. Karim, Randy Kennedy, Gloria Laureano, Daniel Niederjohn, Milton Overton, Selena Patterson, Ivan Pulinkala, Megan Stoltzfus, Anete Vasquez, Patrick Vickers, Naomi Moleka

Dan Niederjohn, Faculty Athletics Representative opened the meeting at 12:31 pm by welcoming the group and facilitating introductions.

Stacy Delacruz moved to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2023 PAOC meeting. Patrick Vickers seconded. Motion was approved.

Naomi Moleka, Sophomore from Women's Soccer, shared her day-to-day life as an athlete. Her season has just ended and involved an early wake-up, practice, weights (3-4 hours of working her body), classes and meetings, academic study halls, and any other required student activities. She finds it good to relax at the end of the day because athletes put their bodies through a lot. She has not had any bad experiences with her professors, but sometimes email is difficult as some don't respond very well.

When asked about how we could help, Naomi suggested that there be events that include both student athletes and non-student athletes. She'd like to get to know other students. Gloria suggested KAB (Kennesaw Activities Board and MAC (Marietta Activities Council) organizations. Meghan will investigate this. When asked about the challenge of travel, Naomi indicated that travel is heavier this year and it is difficult for students when missing classes. She suggested that all student athletes make sure to communicate with their professors so that they can get the information they need when they cannot be present in class.

**Milton Overton**, Director of Athletics, presented the state of the department. He shared some updates regarding NCAA and student athlete welfare. There will be a new holistic model from NCAA that will have a 2-year transition period. We will need to provide additional support in several ways to include increased counseling support and mental health services, services for insurance, and post career health services.

Dr. Niederjohn mentioned that some PAOC policies will need to be revisited. Lisa will send the current policies out to membership and this item will be placed on the February agenda.

Regarding mental health support, we will need to provide mental health support all the time so will eventually require a full-time sports psychologist. Discussion followed regarding what we have, how we manage, and adjustments we could make to

improve/supplement our resources. The students present indicated how important it will be that we make sure student athletes know about the resources that will be available.

**Meghan Stoltzfus**, Director, Student-Athlete Development, covered Student-Athlete Welfare and provided the SAAC update. There have been many events this year and the last of the personal development workshops is Monday. Meghan has had more inquiries about how to get help from students, advisors and staff members than ever before. There is now a QR code to make an appt with Dr. Lindsay posted in all common areas. Dr. Lindsay has done two of the three contracted mental health workshops. This has increased awareness of her presence. Meghan is also hearing more about food insecurities. Students in need are on varying scholarships. (Some get food dollars, Commons swipes, etc.) Some of the food insecurities are due to fiscal irresponsibility; she is working on ways to help student athletes make better choices and stretch their funds through the semester.

Milton indicated that there will be improvements to the budget to provide additional food supplements by team (food before/after practice/games, etc.). Most teams in our new conference are doing this. We want to make sure that nutritional food is always available. This not only helps keep our student athletes healthy, but it also helps to prevent injury. Tamica will investigate partnering with dining services about late evening food availability.

SAAC Update: Selecting Owls Choice Awards took place at the previous meeting. Parking issues were discussed; one team had over 100 parking tickets this semester. There are concerns with parking at the practice facility at Chastain Point, parking across the street at the old SAS building, and tickets after 5pm. It's quite stressful for the student athletes. The long-term solution is the new practice facility, but what can be done now?

Milton would like to have a tour of the facilities and let everyone see just what we are talking about. This should include reviewing schedules. Milton suggested to Tamica that when looking at retention and recruitment, we need to consider this infrastructure.

**Matt Iwanski**, Associate Athletic Director, Athletics Compliance and Risk Management, provided the Compliance Report. Name, Image and Likeness is the big emphasis with NCAA this year. Creating a structure and providing support to student athletes is crucial. Our ability to assist may change with NCAA updates; we are not allowed to create and complete NIL deals. It is the hope of some Athletic departments to be able to do this, as we are now relying on third parties. We will probably see a lot of change in this area and hope to have more information in January, as well as some legislation to protect us when helping our students.

We try our best to have information on student participation in NIL opportunities. Part of the problem is that they forget, or they don't want to disclose. Again, because we are not in control of it, we may not be aware.

Randy Kennedy, Associate Athletic Director, Academic Services, provided the Student-Athlete Academic Update. With three weeks of class left and end of the semester approaching, they are busy and currently reevaluating the tutoring budget.

He has finished completing APR data and submitted it to NCAA. Our single year average APR was 993, the highest we've ever recorded. 11 of 16 teams were at 1000. This will help us in qualifying for NCAA funds. They are currently reviewing and updating the database of special admits and looking at policies with all the upcoming changes.

Austin Brown moved to change 30 minutes to one hour in the Missed Class Policy 4.3. Anete Vasquez seconded. Discussion followed and then the motion was carried unanimously.

*Policy 4.3 For away competition with same day travel, student athletes shall not miss any classes prior to ~~30 minutes~~ one hour before the scheduled time of departure.*

Discussion of special admits vs. regular admits followed. Success, participation, summer bridge, etc. should be considered.

**Dan Niederjohn**, Faculty Athletics Representative and Associate Professor of Psychology provided the FAR and Admission Advisory Committee Update. The end of season survey will be sent out to the group and discussed in February.

Admissions Advisory meets soon to look at the data for special admits. Our process is quite successful, but we are always looking to tweak the process.

In Other Business, storage of PAOC documents was discussed. Currently Lisa is storing everything on the I drive. Milton will provide her with information on where we should move these documents.

Next meetings are February 8, 2024, and April 11, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

The minutes from the November 2, 2023 meeting were approved on February 8, 2024.

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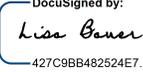
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