

**The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
**Faculty Athletics Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting: October 8, 2013**

**Present:**       **Committee Members:** Lissa Broome, Carol Folt, Beverly Foster, Layna Mosley, Barbara Osborne, Andy Perrin, Joy Renner, John Stephens, Deborah Stroman, Kimberly Strom-Gottfried

**Athletic Department Personnel:** Bubba Cunningham, Vince Ille

**Other Advisers:** Michelle Brown

**Guests:** Amanda Albright (DTH), Jan Boxill (Faculty Chair), Willis Brooks (History, retired), Jim Dean (Provost), Madison Way (Carolina Week)

I. Provost Dean and Role of FAC in Student-Athlete Academic Initiative Working Group

Provost Jim Dean discussed the Student-Athlete Academic Initiative Working Group. He appointed three additional faculty members to the committee – Professor Andy Perrin (Sociology and FAC member), Professor James Johnson (Kenan-Flagler Business School), and Professor Anna Agbe-Davies (Anthropology). The Working Group is cataloging all of the various recommendations regarding student-athletes and academics and hopes to be able to provide a description of how the University has responded to each recommendation. Some of this has already been cataloged in the context of the recent report to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Provost Dean hopes that FAC will receive reports on the Working Group's progress and provide an ongoing forum for reviewing the processes detailed in the Working Group's report when finalized. Professor Perrin said he hoped the Working Group would include policy discussions that would establish substantive benchmarks for various aspects of student-athlete academic performance.

II. Remarks of Chancellor Folt

Chancellor Folt said she was learning how to take advantage of FAC to help her understand the pressing issues and the opinions of faculty. She described her prior experience with athletics at Dartmouth, which fields 34 Division I teams and has a much larger percentage of the student body than at Carolina involved in intercollegiate athletics. While at Dartmouth, she chaired the faculty advisory committee on athletics and served as the Ivy League's representative for a year on the NCAA Division I Board of Directors. One action taken by the Board of Directors was related to initial eligibility standards. The Board decided that increasing the sliding scale (of high school core GPA and standardized test scores) was ill-advised and instead raised the bottom end of the permissible high school core GPA from a 2.0 to a 2.3, but did not otherwise increase the associated standardized test scores. A motivation for this change was the socio-economic bias of the standardized tests. The goal is to identify students who can succeed in college and she acknowledged that there is likely not to be a simple answer to that question. Chancellor Folt said she is uncomfortable with pulling out certain groups of students (like student-athletes) and

reporting information about that group because it tends to isolate students. She is disturbed that some student-athletes are afraid to tell faculty that they are involved in athletics. She hopes that faculty will respect all students equally and hold all to the same aspirations.

Chancellor Folt noted that UNC is a leader in separating admissions decisions, health issues, and advising from the purview of Athletics. She is interested in the ethos of the UNC community and the standards the community expects of everybody, including student-athletes. What behavior is acceptable for faculty and for coaches? It is not necessarily appropriate to hold everyone to the same metrics. We should not be pushed by simplicity, but should perhaps consider individual-centered predictions as a metric for success.

The Chancellor cited a recent survey of alumni that indicated the percentage employed or in graduate school five years after graduation, the percentage that wished they had declared a different major, and the percentage that wished they had learned more about personal finances while in college. It would be interesting to compare these percentages with those for student-athletes. Chancellor Folt noted that the Board of Trustees was also interested in financial literacy training. Bubba Cunningham and Vince Ille said that student-athletes were receiving some financial training through Wells Fargo.

### III. Update from the Faculty Athletics Representative

Professor Lissa Broome reviewed a chart containing some NCAA academic metrics (GSR, FGR, and APR) that is included in her report that will be delivered to Faculty Council at its November meeting. She recently attended a meeting of the Division 1-A (Football Bowl Subdivision) FARs in Dallas and ACC meetings in Raleigh. At both meetings, potential revision to the NCAA governance structure were discussed and the NCAA's governance consultant, Jean Frankel, was present. She is also planning to attend the January NCAA annual convention (as will Athletic Director Bubba Cunningham, and perhaps Chancellor Folt) where there will be two days devoted to discussion and straw votes around potential changes to the current NCAA governance format.

### IV. Update from the Athletics Director

Athletic Director Bubba Cunningham reported on discussions regarding post-season championships in all sports and the Rawlings Report that took place at the recent ACC meetings. He noted various events that he will participate in where the many issues facing intercollegiate athletics, including some of those highlighted in the Rawlings Report, will be discussed, presenting UNC an opportunity to participate in the national dialogue. These events include the recent Faculty Council discussion of the Rawlings Report, an athletic leadership conference at the University of Maryland, the discussion on the UNC campus of the "Schooled" documentary, a Sports Business Journal Symposium in December, the January meeting of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, and the January NCAA Annual Convention. Mr. Cunningham believes that UNC is well-positioned to be an important contributor to these discussions at the local, conference, and national levels.

### V. The Rawlings Report

The discussion of the Rawlings Report at the October 4 Faculty Council meeting began by the panelists discussing their roles and responsibilities (Provost Dean, Bubba Cunningham, Michelle Brown, Steve Farmer, Joy Renner, and Lissa Broome). The discussion touched upon a number of topics, but some of the areas discussed were admissions, a year of readiness, the time commitment for students participating in intercollegiate athletics, and holding student-athletes to campus codes of conduct.

The new NCAA initial eligibility requirements will require a year in readiness for student-athletes who do not meet the NCAA core course high school GPA requirement of 2.3. A transition program, like our Summer Bridge program or transfer student program, might also be helpful for some student-athletes in making the transition to a college curriculum. The University of Virginia offers a transition program that begins in the summer before the first year and continues in the fall and the spring semester of the first year.

The NCAA has restrictions on “countable” hours, but students spend time on athletics that does not fall into a “countable” category. We also do not know how non-athlete students allocate their time to have a point of comparison. It is not necessarily the case that less time on athletics will result in more time on academics. It was pointed out, however, that since athletics is the tie for student-athletes to this University, it may not be possible for student-athletes to reduce the time they spend on athletics unilaterally.

UNC student-athletes are subject to the UNC Honor Code and held to the same standards as other students. Honor Court proceedings are confidential, so most people are not aware of student-athlete discipline through this process.

Bubba Cunningham commended the recommendation of the Rawlings Report for an internal and external audit to ensure that all the systems and procedures in place with respect to student-athletes are followed.

Chancellor Folt noted that Hunter Rawlings, the head of the Association of American Universities (AAU), would be devoting some AAU meeting time to issues similar to those brought up in the UNC report that bears his name.

#### VI. Proposed Work Plan for 2013-14

Professor Joy Renner asked committee members for permission to have a floating agenda, where topics discussed relate to issues of the day. The committee readily agreed with this plan as the best suited to ensuring that the committee would be engaging in discussions of timely and relevant topics.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

The next meeting is November 5, 2013.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lissa Broome