

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Faculty Athletics Committee
Minutes of Meeting: December 11, 2014

Present: **Committee Members:** Lissa Broome, Marc Cohen, Paul Friga, Layna Mosley, Andy Perrin, Joy Renner, John Stephens, Kimberly, Strom-Gottfried, Deborah Stroman

Advisors: Michelle Brown (Director for the Student-Athlete Academic Support Program), Bubba Cunningham (Director of Athletics), Vince Ille (Senior Associate Athletic Director)

Guests: Chris Derickson (Registrar – for a portion of the meeting), Karen Moon (UNC News Service), Abigail Panter (Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, College of Arts & Sciences – for a portion of the meeting), Kyle Villemain (Student Body Vice President), TV reporter, and TV cameraman

I. Preparation

Open Forums. There will be two open forums in the spring. One will be more informal (a “Brown Bag with FAC”) on Wednesday, February 25 from 11-1 and the second will be on Tuesday, March 24 from 11-1.

SAAC Focus Groups. These will be on March 18, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council.

Meeting with Romance Language Department. Marc Cohen met with the Romance Language Department. A document is attached to this report containing feedback from the Department. The committee discussed some of the issues raised in the feedback.

II. Moving Forward

Time Commitment. One of the issues raised at the last meeting was how are doctors’ appointments and athletic training activities scheduled to minimize interference with class time. Professor Joy Renner invited Dr. Mario Ciocca, the head of Sports Medicine, to address this question. A written response is attached. Dr. Ciocca reinforced that in general Sports Medicine does not schedule appointments during class time or tutoring, but that in some circumstances an appointment during class time may be necessary. These circumstances include: 1) acute illness, (2) concussion, 3) surgery (try to schedule around academics, but it post-surgery medicine and mobility issues sometimes limit students’ ability to attend class), and 4) referral to an outside specialist where travel is involved and/or there is no control of appointment times. Dr. Ciocca emphasized that the Sports Medicine staff is available at all hours to assist student-athletes. If a student will miss class because of illness or injury, Dr. Ciocca notifies the Dean of Students who in turn notifies the student’s teachers. Sports Medicine is going to provide more information that

may be passed along to faculty about the nature of concussions and how they may affect a student's academic performance. In addition, providing information about where a faculty member may verify the medical condition is also a good idea. For instance, if the student or academic counselor has contacted a faculty member, the relevant team doctor should also be copied on the email so the faculty member may verify the condition that is being reported with the doctor, consistent with HIPAA. The student is also encouraged to email his instructors regarding the absence. Dr. Ciocca will discuss again with his staff the importance of ensuring that appointments are not scheduled in conflict with classes. Improving communications with academic counselors in ASPSA is also an important goal. Dr. Ciocca observed that it is possible that medical absences for student-athletes are more "visible" to faculty than similar absences for other students who may be missing because of illness or injury but do not report that to the faculty member because they are well within the allowable absences for the class. The committee may ask later for some data on injuries by team, including concussions.

Notes from Benton Moss related to feedback he received from student-athletes on time commitments are attached.

III. Preliminary Report on Advising

Professors John Stephens and Bev Foster presented their Preliminary Report to FAC on advising and counseling for student-athletes. The report and its exhibits are attached. Professors Foster and Stephens will report again in February. They will ask Lee May from the Academic Advising Program to join the committee's meeting then.

Issues raised at the committee meeting based on the preliminary report:

- We need to have strategies for providing necessary advice to students who matriculate in Summer Session II or January since they do not benefit from the orientation geared to new students beginning in the fall semester.
- Professors Stephens and Foster have a handout they will provide next time discussing advising during a student's four-year career. A September 2011 ASPSA review report suggested that student-athletes see a college advisor once each semester to be sure there are sufficient checks and balances in the system. It may be that some of this meeting time could be employed for major selection and career guidance. This feeds into one of the Chancellor's initiatives to focus more intentionally with student-athletes on majors and careers earlier in each student's academic career.
- Integration versus separation of student-athletes with the academic support provided to other students.
- Awareness of coaches and student-athletes of the roles of academic advisors and academic counselors.
- Course clustering and the potential role of advising or counseling.
- Eligibility pressures.

IV. Preliminary Discussion of Academics

Professors Layna Mosley and Deborah Stroman led this discussion. Abigail Panter, Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education in the College of Arts and Sciences and Chris

Derickson, University Registrar, joined the committee for this portion of the meeting. Professor Mosley described the relatively new process of monitoring courses for clustering. Initially, this review was conducted by the Registrar, Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, and the FAR. In recent semesters, the Academics Group members have been invited to join the meeting. Courses are flagged if more than 20% of the enrollment is made up of student-athletes during the fall and spring terms and if more than 30% of the enrollment is student-athletes in one of the summer sessions. The department chair is asked by the Senior Associate Dean to follow up to ensure that each of these flagged courses is meeting regularly, has a syllabus, and has appropriate assessment mechanisms. The chair reports back to the Senior Associate Dean. Professor Mosley raised the question about why we care about student-athlete clustering. She conjectured that it could be because this may indicate the course is easy, athletes are being steered to the course, or because of the impact on the academic environment of having too many of any one type in a course.

Dr. Michelle Brown, Director of ASPSA, noted that this is an after-the-fact review. She wondered what is the expectation from FAC when ASPSA notices or suspects that student-athletes are clustering in a course. Chris Derickson reported that his office has purchased College Scheduler which now permits students to block out times in their schedules when they cannot meet a course and then determine which courses are available during the open times. There might also be a way to use this tool to see when students are ignoring courses found by the scheduling software.

There may be other students – students in the Greek system, covenant students – who also cluster, but no one is looking at those cluster. Professor Paul Friga said perhaps we should be more concerned about “underclustering,” or the inability of students to take certain classes because of conflicts with practice times. He asked whether we could open up more class opportunities by additional flexibility in practice times. Professor Andy Perrin suggested that the data be analyzed by team.

Professor Lissa Broome reported that she had recently seen revised requirements from General Administration regarding systemwide reporting of student-athlete clustering. She will contact Lynn Williford of Institutional Research to discuss this reporting requirement and ensure that we are not duplicating efforts. Dr. Williford will be asked to join the group for the next clustering review shortly after the spring semester class census date.

V. Remarks of the Athletics Director

Athletics Director Bubba Cunningham addressed the spray painting that occurred in the Duke visitors' locker room following the football team's win over Duke on Thursday, November 20, and after the Victory Bell was painted Carolina blue. Upon learning about the damage the next day, Mr. Cunningham and Coach Larry Fedora, immediately called their counterparts at Duke to apologize and to offer to pay for the damage, which was reported at \$27,000. Although Coach Fedora said in a press conference that the team would not be punished, in fact they will suffer several consequences including the loss of their per diem for the following game, and requirements for a team community service project and participation in a decision-making class.

Mr. Cunningham hopes to continue to emphasize that staff and administrators who are aware of inappropriate conduct like this report it to him immediately.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40.

The next meeting is January 13 at 3:30.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lissa Broome

Attachments

Feedback from Romance Language Department Discussion

Questions posed to Mario Ciocca – Director of Sports Medicine

Feedback from Benton Moss from student-athletes on time/commitments

Preliminary Report to FAC re: advising and counseling support for student athletes

Feedback from Romance Language Department Discussion – Marc Cohen

I'm writing to give you a brief report of my meeting with Romance Languages today. My two hosts were Profs. Hassan Melehy (who attended one of our listening forums) and Federico Luisetti (the dept. chair). I gave a brief address in which, per their request, I described the role and projects of the FAC. After that there were questions, answers, statements (one of which was prepared/written in advance). The tone was mostly positive and I was well treated.

Some of the views expressed...

1. The FAC should be more confrontational with the administration and the Athletic Department. Its role as an advisory committee and the fact that there are diverse views on the committee are not valid excuses for holding back. The FAC is hiding behind the advisory role excuse.
2. The university should identify those higher ups in the administration, in the Athletics Department, and on the faculty who have not yet been outed for (1) having knowledge of the paper class system, and (2) for creating incentives for ASPSA counselors to deliver eligible student athletes.
3. The fact that others enrolled in paper classes besides student athletes points to a different set of problems than the ones that are getting most of the attention. We should remember that not only student-athletes benefited from the paper-class system.
4. Does the FAC feel pressured by those who are already trying to "re-write" what the Wainstein report says?
5. The Athletics Reform Group is changing its aggressive, media-embracing approach now that it has received recognition from Bruce Cairns. It wants to work with Cairns and likes that it now has an ear inside the Faculty Council.
6. The Faculty Council is a kind of old boys network, wherein only vetted insiders get invited onto committees.

Question posed to Mario Ciocca – Director of Sports Medicine

Do students have to miss class and labs for doctor appointments, trainer appointments, and other sports medicine related appointments. Some faculty say they can deal with the travel days missed from class but that is not all the times they are asked to excuse students.

The athletes do miss class for medical reasons sometimes but that is no different than any other general student. The situations where class time may be missed or excused include:

- 1) Acute illness (gastroenteritis, flu) where the athlete is in no shape to go to class and would also put others at risk for infection
- 2) Concussion – If the athlete is very symptomatic any mental or physical activity will make them feel worse in addition to not being able to focus and retain information
- 3) Surgery – some surgeries, particularly lower extremities make it hard for the athlete to get to class and/or he/she may be on narcotics. When scheduling surgeries we work with the academic advisor and try to perform the surgery at a time when it is most convenient academically
- 4) Referral to an outside specialist where there may be travel involved or we have no way of manipulating those appointments (we take the first appointment we can get) (this is rare)

Otherwise for general illness and injuries we are not scheduling appointments during class time (between classes, tutoring, workouts, and practice we have a hard time seeing them and often see them during non clinic hours). Definitely any rehab or athletic trainer visits are not scheduled during classes. I am sure there may have been times where someone has a morning practice, has a severe injury and has a medical evaluation done rather than going to class but these are due to the acuity of the situation, the need to evaluate sooner rather than later and the inability of the athlete to be mobile.

I do think it becomes more apparent when an athlete misses a class than a general student. For example if an athlete misses 4 classes during the semester because of travel and then has to miss 2 other classes due to acute illness, then it is a problem. In contrast to the general student who just misses the 2 classes because of illness and therefore not as much of an issue.

I hope this helps. If there are other situations you would like me to clarify please let me know.

Feedback from Benton from student athletes on time/commitments – 12/3

Here is some of the feedback I received over and above what has already been talked about:

- Quantitative (time) and qualitative (diversity) feedback on extracurricular activities
- Attempting to look at differences between sports on medical preparation and rehab activity time commitments (football is going to look very different from baseball and field hockey and swimming, etc.)
- **How much time do they spend on career development – tough one to quantify/qualify but needs to be asked! Most of our student athletes simply don't have time to dedicate to career searches/development until after their eligibility is up and not during their last senior season – the pressure to be great during senior season is too great to spend time networking or interviewing etc.**

Other potential areas to be discussed further down the line:

- **Priority registration** - there seems to be a need to expand by a day or two to ensure required class enrollment rather than by 15 minutes for each class.
- What **majors or minors may be precluded** from some sports due to time conflicts?
- What **classes** may not be available due to time constraints or scheduling of practice times and games etc?
- **Internship** opportunities
- Leadership academy as class credit?
- Potential for **international experiences** for athletes
- Creating a Bachelor's Degree in Sports (talked to Bubba about this – he may be better one to talk about this)
- **LFIT** - potentially do away with this as a requirement for Student-Athletes, doesn't make much sense for us to take this class.

- Involvement in the leadership academy--I'm not sure where to really put this topic but our sophomores are really struggling. We have Monday's off and use that as major time to get caught up on work however our sophomores (mainly) have something-- CREED mentors, rising stars, Wells Fargo \$ Meeting, SAAC, etc.--scheduled every Monday night. **They love being a part of it but are having a lot of issues with the time absorption it causes.**

Preliminary Report to FAC re: advising and counseling support for student athletes

Submitted by Bev Foster and John Stephens following independent meetings with Lee May and Michelle Brown

Prepared: December 4, 2014

Plan: Preliminary discussion for feedback on December 11, 2014; full discussion on January 13, 2015

Purpose: (1) Update on changes since last report (2) Identify current issues or concerns for examination

1. Background
 - a. Previous report to FAC
 - b. Clarify nomenclature : *advising* (Steele Bldg, AAP, Lee May) and *counseling* (Loudermilk Bldg, ASPSA, Michelle Brown)
 - c. Clarify current leadership of AAP and ASPSA, reporting and funding mechanisms
2. Current goals and activities
 - a. Updates from AAP and ASPSA re: current activities, both independently and collaboratively
 - b. Pilot efforts in Fall 2014
 - c. Plans for Spring and Summer 2015; preparation for fall 2015
3. Discussion and feedback re: a draft proposal from AAP on a four year advising plan
4. Possible concerns/issues for examination
 - a. Clarity of roles for supporting student course selection and registration
 - b. Separation vs. integration of student athletes with academic supports for all students (e.g. AAP, Writing Center, Learning Center, Career Services, Early Warning System)
 - c. Coaches awareness and understanding of advising and counseling roles
 - d. Eligibility pressures
 - e. Relative influence of advising vs. counseling vs. coaches in assisting students
 - f. What is the student athletes understanding of the advising and counseling system?
 - g. Course clustering and the possible role of advising or counseling
 - h. Time constraints with new class blocking system
 - i. Timely new student orientation to advising and counseling
 - j. AAP and direct communication with athletes
 - k. Collaborative and independent roles and responsibilities of AAP and ASPSA
 - l. Others?