

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Faculty Athletics Committee
Minutes of Meeting: January 13, 2015

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

Advisors: Bubba Cunningham (Director of Athletics)

Liaison from the Student-Athlete Advisory Council: Benton Moss

Guests: Sarah Butler (Daily Tar Heel), Chris Faison (CCSAC – Minority Male Mentoring & Engagement), Karen Moon (UNC News Service), Anne Whisnant (Office of Faculty Governance)

I. Preparation

Open Forums. The forum on Wednesday, February 25 from 11-1 will be in the Campus Y, Queen Anne Room and will be an informal discussion period. The second forum will be more formal and will be on Tuesday, March 24 from 11-1 in the Toy Lounge of Dey Hall.

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. Lissa Broome, Kim Strom-Gottfried, John Stephens, Joy Renner, Marc Cohen, and Andy Perrin indicated that they could attend. Committee members should review the outline used last year for questions with an eye towards perhaps using more general questions this year. Kim and Paul Friga will be responsible for preparing the report that synthesizes the results of the focus group discussions.

Student-Athlete Academic Initiative Working Group. Debbi Clarke circulated notes from the joint FAC-Working Group meeting on January 9. The notes are attached. Joy Renner asked that each person review the Working Group processes that relate to their topic area and provide feedback to Debbi and use the Working Group report as background materials for their review and analysis of their topic area.

Minutes. The minutes from the October, November, and December meetings of FAC were approved. Lissa Broome will merge each document with the attachments related to those minutes and post on the Sakai site as approved minutes.

II. Remarks from the Chancellor

Chancellor Folt reported that in reviewing the University's report to SACS, she was struck yet again by all the work by FAC over the last few years to improve deficient processes. She very much appreciates all this work, including FAC's pilot program to investigate issues raised related

to academic integrity and student-athletes. She believes that this will be helpful in the more comprehensive effort to investigate issues of concern that will be developed University-wide in the coming months. SACS may ask for additional information and may schedule a site visit to the campus. The SACS board is next scheduled to meet in June. The SACS submission will be posted soon on Carolina Commitment after redacting certain protected information.

Chancellor Folt attended the NCAA Convention with Bubba Cunningham, Lissa Broome, and Marielle VanGelder (Director of Compliance in the Department of Athletics). It was a historic meeting with the schools in the autonomy conferences taking their first votes and student-athletes casting votes for the first time. The legislation that was passed allows the full grant-in-aid to include cost of attendance.

III. Closed Session

It was moved, seconded, and passed that the committee move into closed session pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-318.11. The chair invited Bubba Cunningham and Benton Moss to remain for the discussion. The committee discussed a recent personnel decision. It was moved, seconded, and passed that the committee return to open session. Later in the meeting, it was moved, seconded, and passed that the committee return to closed session for additional discussion of the same matter. Additional information will be made available to committee members about the topic discussed as well as an opportunity for additional conversation with someone not on the committee.

IV. Remarks from the Athletics Director and the Faculty Athletics Representative

NCAA Convention. Bubba Cunningham and Lissa Broome discussed further the NCAA convention items mentioned by the Chancellor. The new cost of attendance amounts that will be received by student-athletes reinforce the importance of a robust financial education program for student-athletes. This year's NCAA legislative materials for the autonomy conferences did not get published until December, making it difficult to get feedback from FAC members and SAAC members, although next year's legislative calendar will be regularized, giving each group more opportunity to discuss and weigh in on the legislative items.

ACC Lacrosse Tournament Scheduling. Lissa Broome reported on a recent decision by the ACC to move the ACC Lacrosse Championship to a date one week closer to the first round of the NCAA Lacrosse Tournament, presumably for competitive reasons. The move creates a conflict with the UNC spring final exam schedule. Lissa will prepare a resolution for approval by FAC that in scheduling ACC regular season competitions and ACC championships, minimizing missed class time and conflicts with final exams should have priority over competitive reasons. She will circulate this resolution for email vote prior to the ACC winter meetings at the end of January.

White House Visit. Bubba Cunningham is scheduled to visit the White House with other sports leaders to discuss various issues, including Title IX and sexual violence.

ACC Academic Collaborative. Paul Friga is one of four faculty members participating in a strategic planning process funded by the ACC Academic Collaborative and available for all ACC schools.

V. Schedule of Topic Area Discussions

February – Advising (Bev Foster and John Stephens)

March – Admissions (Andy Perrin and Marc Cohen)

March – Academics (Deb Stroman and Layna Mosley)

April – Student-Athlete Experience (Paul Friga and Kimberly Strom-Gottfried)

The meeting adjourned at 5:40.

The next meeting is February 10 at 3:30.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lissa Broome

Attachments

Summary of Working Group-FAC Meeting Prepared by Debbi Clarke

**UNC-Chapel Hill
Student-Athlete Academic Initiative Working Group
and the
Faculty Athletics Committee
Combined Meeting**

Friday January 9, 2015

2:00-3:30PM

STEELE 3020 (PLS NOTE LOCATION)

Agenda updated Wed 01-7-15

I. Welcome & Introductions

II. Working Group Open Issues as of January 2015 (see attached, we can use this document to guide our discussion)

III. Topics for Discussion:

1. New charge for the FAC
 - Greater oversight of student-athlete academic processes
 - Monitoring and measurement
2. Guidelines for faculty communication with the ASPSA and with Athletics
3. Missed classes, excused absences, make-up exams and scheduling athletic events during finals
4. Recruitment Process
 - How is Athletics recruiting, specifically in terms of communicating academic opportunities and expectations at UNC
5. Breaking down barriers between athletes and non-athletes - what are the practices that we can use to bridge differences?
 - Advising
 - Housing
6. Time commitments of student-athletes
7. Developing student-athlete/faculty relationships
 - Creating a welcoming environment for student-athletesWhat faculty can expect when they have a student-athlete in class

Meeting Notes

Attended:

Ashlen Renner, DTH
Michelle Brown, ASPSA/Working Group
Beverly Foster, FAC
John Stephens, FAC
Joy Renner, FAC Chair
Andy Perrin, FAC/Working Group
Paul Friga, FAC
Kim Strom-Gottfried, FAC
Bubba Cunningham, AD/Working Group
Layna Mosley, FAC
Debbi Clarke, Working Group
Marc Cohen, FAC
Lissa Broome, FAR/FAC/Working Group (joined by telephone)

1. New charge for the FAC?

Current charge of the FAC:

"The Faculty Athletics Committee is concerned with informing the faculty and advising the chancellor on any aspect of athletics, including, but not limited to, the academic experience for varsity athletes, athletic opportunities for members of the University committee, and the general conduct and operation of the University's athletics program" (Faculty Code § 4-7[b]).

Joy presented an updated **draft for consideration:**

"The Faculty Athletics Committee is charged with monitoring the academic and University experience for varsity athletes by examining and evaluating processes and outcomes to advise the Chancellor, who holds oversight for the Athletics Department."

John: our role is to ensure that student-athletes get the education that the University promises them

Kim: what do we mean by oversight? Is monitoring a better word? Want to be cooperative

Lissa: The FAC needs to consider what would be monitored and what processes they would look at specifically?

Andy: Oversight does not mean command and control, but instead evokes watching from the side.

We need to observe and monitor processes and outcomes. Then we advise the Chancellor. We do this on behalf of the faculty; we are elected by the faculty. We don't run or control athletics, we monitor it on behalf of the faculty.

Layna: Accountability of this committee is to the faculty.

Additional resources?

Is there a reasonable claim to need additional resources for the FAC?

1. Staff time in the Office of Faculty Governance?
2. Salary support for the Chair?
3. Project planning software (Gantt chart, issues tracking, etc.)

Request for more resources is predicated on the premise that a better resourced FAC may have caught the fake courses

Beverly: Also need access to institutional resources that can provide important information/data

Joy: need to pull together our plan (via project planning software) so that the offices from which the FAC needs data can be prepared

John: What will the goals of the Working Group be going forward? Will the FAC be asked to react/respond to these goals?

Debbi: Of course, we always welcome feedback from the FAC.

Working Group is looking at:

Affirming strategic goals of the Dept of Athletics

Academic preparation of students coming into the University

Working Group will need to put them into recommendations in terms of how these processes are monitored, measured, changed, etc. going forward

Andy: Will there be a consortia of like-minded Universities also to look at these processes at other institutions?

Joy: We don't need a new group that would be created parallel to the FAC, but we may need, once or twice per year, to gather a large group of individuals from a wide variety of constituents who are impacted by athletics. This group would look at agenda building for the FAC for the coming year.

Want to be sure that everyone is at the table and everyone knows what's going on.

Kim: The challenge in an organization this size and level of complexity is to make sure that the group is diverse and representative

How formal would this group be? What is the best way to get reliable input?

Is something happening with the ARG's request to form an additional faculty entity?

Paul: Goal Setting is too vague and doesn't accurately describe a process; maybe we need to change to "Program Evaluation" of the student-athlete experience?

Evaluation of how well things are done, and should be done, within each process is really up to each department.

Joy: The departments that are described in each process should be involved in any goals or recommendations that are made. The Chancellor, the Provost and the AD then makes decisions regarding priorities and plans for implementation

Lissa: What will evaluation look like, general or specific? What are we trying to accomplish?

Michelle: The Working Group has been able to bring about progress in implementing changes because of its broad representation across campus and effectiveness in making decisions.

Marc: Comparative Literature recently completed a process map, similar to what the Working Group put together.

Then a special committee was established to rank order the recommendations and assign resources.

Paul: Keep the Working Group going but shift the role away from documenting processes to monitoring processes and determining goals?

Bubba: Would we hand this off to the FAC?

Layna: The FAC would need additional resources to continue the work of the Working Group

Andy: the idea of maintaining the Working Group is worrisome, need an endpoint. This last process is about “where do we want to be, and who carries that onward?”

2. Guidelines for faculty communication with the ASPSA and with Athletics (see Process 7.0)

John: How does ASPSA acting as a liaison between a student-athlete and an instructor help foster relationships between students and faculty

Michelle: The role is one of support, not a substitute for students to contacting faculty themselves, we always advise and encourage them to advocate for themselves.

Beverly: We want to foster independence and agency. We can help guide students. The way this works depends on each individual situation.

Andy: That’s why this list is called principles, not rules; this list provides direction

Layna: Academic Counselor gathers information to help the student help himself, Counselor is not an advocate but a guide

Marc: Can all communication be between the instructor and the student-athlete with the Counselor copied if requested by the student; communication remains solely between the professor and the student-athlete?

John: The goal here is mutual understanding between student and teacher; what is the ASPSA Counselor's role in that goal?

Kim: want the avoidance of coercion or substitution
One approach may be that communication comes from the student to the instructor with the Counselor copied (email).

Paul: Communication between faculty and coaches is very helpful and should be encouraged; the way this piece currently is worded doesn't encourage this communication.

John: Coaches are teachers. Coaches with good intentions need to feel comfortable speaking with faculty about the academic experiences of their student-athletes.

Beverly: When working with students who have demanding schedules (e.g., Nursing), the student could meet with the coach and the faculty member so that the coach and the instructor could work together on developing a schedule that works for the student.

3. Proposal to clarify the Missed Class Policy in the Undergraduate Bulletin, to be submitted to the EPC in January 2015, will be shared with the Working Group and the FAC next week.

4. Recruitment Process

How is Athletics recruiting, specifically in terms of communicating academic opportunities and expectations at UNC

Bubba: the message of UNC's strong academic program and strong athletic program is used as a strength for recruiting.

Some students are told by other schools (competitors) that UNC is not welcoming to athletes.

Joy: We need consistency, need the same information about academic programs given to every student by every coach.

Bubba: with consultation from the Working Group, the Office of Admissions has created a brochure that every student-athlete will receive from every coach.

Marc: can we use majors to describe concrete professions and make career paths clearer to students, give the majors meaning
Chronicle of Higher Ed article this week regarding major clustering among groups of students ()

Layna: students need to have as much passion for learning as they have for athletics.

Beverly: Marc's idea goes beyond the timeframe of recruiting to after students arrive; advising and academic support needs to make majors applicable to students' career development

Michelle: the ASPSA encourages students to explore these options, e.g., majors fair coordinated by student-athlete development