

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Faculty Athletics Committee
Minutes of Meeting: February 4, 2014

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

Athletic Department Personnel: Bubba Cunningham

Other Advisers: Michelle Brown

Guests: Willis Brooks (History, retired), Sarah Chaney (DTH), Debbi Clarke (consultant to Provost's Working Group), Steve Farmer (Vice Provost for Enrollment and Undergraduate Admissions), Kevin Westerman (law student)

I. Introductions and Preliminary Matters

Following introductions of committee members and guests, the minutes were approved with the correction to the spelling of Layna Mosley's name.

II. Chancellor Folt's Remarks

Chancellor Folt began by thanking the committee for all it does. She noted that there are a lot of new systems being put in place and that we are always trying to improve our processes. Notwithstanding this good work she is concerned (and thinks we should all be concerned) that some of our students are feeling hurt and targeted.

Professor Deborah Stroman noted that her entrepreneurship class had developed #heelforward as one way to talk about moving forward. Chancellor Folt suggested that Joel Curran join the committee at a coming meeting to discuss further the response to various media accounts. In addition, he is working on a webpage for the UNC website that collects related reports in one easily accessible place. Chancellor Folt noted that change cannot happen in a day, but urged the committee to remain optimistic about the institution.

The committee discussed the need to protect student information from disclosure in the press. Professor Joy Renner said that she had contacted two separate University offices on behalf of the committee to express concern about the disclosure of what appears to be FERPA-protect student academic data.

Professor Andy Perrin said the committee should continue its work and fashioning solutions to problems.

III. Faculty Athletics Representative's Remarks

Professor Lissa Broome reported that since the committee's last meeting she had attended the NCAA annual convention and the ACC winter meetings. At the NCAA annual meeting there was a special discussion about refashioning the Division I governance model. Athletic Directors, student-athletes, FARs, and Senior Women's Administrators all expressed the desire for greater input either into the Council(s) supporting the Board of Directors (now composed of Presidents/Chancellors) or representation on the Board of Directors. A central piece of the discussion was allowing some rules autonomy of the Power 5 athletic conferences, which includes the ACC. The limits of the issues on which there would be autonomy is still unclear as is the mechanism for exercising that autonomy. Professor Broome had the privilege of presenting the NCAA's Top X Award to Amber Brooks, a women's soccer student-athlete who graduated from UNC in August 2013. This award goes to ten students who have completed their athletic eligibility each year from across all three divisions. It recognizes academic achievement, athletic excellence, and community involvement.

At the ACC winter meetings, the NCAA governance dialog was discussed and the recipients of three post-graduate scholarships per institution were selected from among student-athletes planning to attend graduate school. There was a preliminary discussion of early recruiting issues that were the subject of a recent New York Times article. The ACC organized a meeting last fall of the Student Body Presidents of each ACC institution. The ADs and FARs expressed support for providing some conference funding to support this meeting on an annual basis.

Professor Broome concluded by reading an email to men's lacrosse coach Joe Breschi sent by a parent of a boy under nine years of age who had recently attended a Winter Youth Clinic hosted by the men's lacrosse team. She complimented Coach Breschi on his leadership and in instilling important values in the boys who participated in the camp. She reported that her son recalled how the captain "told us that at Carolina, the order of things is family, academics and then lacrosse. I remembered that this morning at school and I had the best day I have ever had."

IV. Athletic Director's Remarks

Athletic Director Bubba Cunningham noted that the next day, February 5, was signing day. Following the meeting would be one of two scholarship donor dinners each year. Committee members were invited to attend, along with the student-athlete scholarship recipients, and the scholarship donors. During February the Athletics Department is honoring four African American student-athletes as trailblazers, including Charles Scott (basketball), Robyn Hadley (basketball), Courtney Bumpers (gymnastics), and Ricky Lanier (football). All four will be honored at halftime of the Wake Forest basketball game.

V. Committee's Work Plan

Professor Joy Renner reviewed a number of items on which the committee has been working:

- We are nearing launch for some of the voice-over PowerPoints regarding how to be a faculty member teaching student-athletes
- A number of FAC members indicated that they would be able to attend our March 26 focus groups with the Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) – Broome, Friga, Osborne, Renner, Stephens, Stroman, and Strom-Gottfried.

- Professor Renner hopes that the student experience survey will be posted for committee review before March.
- The committee still needs to address a structure for an academic performance review process, including the data to be collected, who will conduct the review, and who the review will inform (FAC? Faculty Council? ASPSA? Coaches? Admissions? Athletic Director?).
- Professor Renner will be meeting soon with department heads to discuss a communications plan with departments and teams and faculty, students, and prospective student-athletes.
- The committee will continue to review and discuss the processes documented by the Working Group. Debbi Clarke, the consultant assisting the Working Group, said she has been in discussion with other schools about their processes and that Professor Renner is learning more about the work of faculty groups like FAC at other schools.
- Professor Renner reminded the group about the May 16 retreat.

Professor Perrin related an anecdote about a special talent student-athlete from a revenue team who was a student in his advanced graduate social theory class. He was favorably impressed with this student who had made observations central to the class conversation over the four sessions so far.

VI. Admissions

Steve Farmer, Vice Provost for Enrollment and Undergraduate Admissions, began by thanking the committee for the time it gives to our students. He noted that the admissions office expects students to be prepared for the challenge of University study or willing to meet that challenge with appropriate support. He explained that the Carolina College Advising Corps' purpose was to be sure that young people throughout our state in low-resourced high schools learn that they are capable of more than they understand. Not everyone starts at the same place. A core value of Mr. Farmer's office is to evaluate everyone fairly even though everyone cannot be weighed on the same scale. Admissions, he said, is more of an art than a science. If it were a science then 100% of our enrolling Ph.D. student would receive that degree within four years.

As the admissions officer, Mr. Farmer is accountable and responsible for all admissions decisions. The office follows the rules set forth by the Board of Governors, the Board of Trustees, and the Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Admissions. His office reports annually to the Faculty Council.

Each year approximately 160 students (or approximately 3.9% of the entering class) are admitted because of their special talent to participate in intercollegiate athletics. Forty to sixty more students are admitted without a special slot and will also compete in intercollegiate athletics. This past year there were 154 students entering based on special athletic talent and 50 other students admitted who also participated in athletics for a total of 5% of the first-year class. Each prospective student, including each student-athlete is evaluated individually, comprehensively, and holistically.

Some of these students are reviewed by the Faculty Committee on Special Talent. Its recommendations are advisory to Mr. Farmer, but Mr. Farmer has never admitted a student who was not recommended by the committee. The committee considers Tier 1 students (with a predicted GPA – PGPA – under 2.3) and those students who fail to meet the UNC system minimum course requirements – MCR – or minimum admissions requirements – MAR. This group of students is among those most heavily scrutinized by the admissions office. In the Fall of 2013, 14 students in Tier 1 were admitted after review by the Committee. They represented six different athletic programs. For each student, someone from the Admissions Office spoke to someone at the high school about the student. These students are admitted because we believe they have the capacity to succeed academically at UNC. The admissions office and the committee study the past performance of these students and work to do better over time at predicting which students will indeed embrace their college experience and be successful while at Carolina.

Mr. Farmer emphasized that that standardized test scores cannot fully predict actual performance and that no one recommends using threshold or cutoff scores in making admissions decisions. Scores also need to be considered in context with the student's background.

Professor Bev Foster asked about transfer students. Mr. Farmer said that around 14-15 transfer student-athletes are accepted each year. He said that 85% of those student-athletes have either graduated or are still enrolled and 11% left with GPAs over 2.0.

Mr. Farmer also discussed the competitiveness of admissions to UNC for out-of-state students. He said that one-half of the football players signed last year were also offered scholarships to play by either Duke or Wake Forest. The 160 slots for special talent student-athletes are apportioned through the athletics department among the various teams. Mr. Farmer said that candidates about whom his office has serious reservations are not pursued by the coaches.

VII. Closed Session

Pursuant to a motion (seconded and passed) the committee went into closed session to prevent the disclosure of "information that is privileged or confidential." N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-318.11. Following discussion in closed session about the academic performance of specific student-athletes, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to return to open session.

VIII. Additional Issues

Professor Deborah Stroman suggested that the committee consider meeting twice a month so that it would be able to discuss all of its agenda items. Committee chair, Professor Joy Renner, agreed to try to schedule an additional meeting for February.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lissa Broome