

PROVOST'S ATHLETICS OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
Minutes February 2, 2022
12:30-1:30PM Virtual Meeting

In attendance: Lisa Bauer, Austin Brown, Bret Cowley, Mindy DeBruce, Thomas Doleys, Mark Geil, Aaron Goodwin, Aaron Howell, Amani Johnson, Tamica Jones, M.A. Karim, Randy Kennedy, Gloria Laureano, Daniel Niederjohn, Milton Overton, Ivan Pulinkala, Patrick Vickers, Mark Warner, Andrew Whittmayer

Welcome, and Introductions: Chair Niederjohn opened the meeting at 12:31 pm. He made introductions and reminded all of the purpose of PAOC.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of November 3, 2021 were approved.

State of the Department: Milton Overton, Director of Athletics shared a number of Points of Pride including academics, men's basketball, women's basketball, softball, and football.

He provided updates on the Strategic Plan and Capitol Campaign. Projects include renovations to the baseball facility, moving Football Operations to the stadium from the warehouse, and a future stand-alone medical facility. Athletics also plans to bring in some sales help for ticket sales. Another project Milton talked about was an indoor track facility and finding potential sponsors.

Milton wants us to keep our focus graduating our kids and seeing that they have a great experience here. College sports are changing and our focus must remain. We will evolve as necessary to stay true to our core mission; we are an academic institution. He extended an invitation to the group to attend spring athletic events. Just let him know when you would like to attend.

Student-Athlete Welfare and SAAC Update: Mindy DeBruce, Associate Athletic Director, Administration turned over the floor to **Aaron Goodwin**; Aaron thanked the group for the opportunity to participate in PAOC. He wants to stay informed and take information back to his groups.

Nutrition is a big initiative. This effort is going to continue and hopefully next year, we can get meetings with the nutritionist across all sports. Marketing is going well and SAAC did a really good job of getting people to come to events. They will continue focusing on getting people to come out and watch conference play basketball and then the spring teams.

Randy inquired about the new space in the Academic Learning Center. Aaron shared that it is very spacious and very peaceful. There are lots of cubicles and private areas for tutoring. Fueling stations are always stocked. Being in the middle of campus makes it top notch and he invited all to come over and check it out; he gets a lot of work done there. Aaron's long-term goal is to come back to KSU and serve in some way.

Ms. DeBruce shared that student athletes have accepted the banquet change with grace. SAAC members will be taking pizza around to the teams to recognize award winners.

A student athlete kick back is in the planning stages. This could be at baseball or track. There are also plans for a student athlete education event late in February. Ms. DeBruce is looking at available dates and the guest speaker's availability.

She shared some updates regarding COVID and that there have been some changes with regards to isolation. Lots of student athletes are missing classes, sometimes with their 2nd or 3rd case. This is difficult for our athletes, both physically and mentally. We continue to work to improve our response and our support.

She spoke of efforts regarding sexual violence prevention, diversity and inclusive excellence. Her group is partnering to drive education and will end the semester with person-to-person meetings with students. The information covered will vary, depending on level of the student; freshmen information will be different than that for seniors.

Compliance Report and NCAA News: Bret Cowley shared that on January 20th, the NCAA membership voted to establish a new NCAA constitution. The new constitution is streamlined to only include association-wide provisions and all division-specific legislation have been moved out of the constitution and into other bylaws. What did not change are the existing revenue allocations and championship opportunities for each division.

Each division will now have the ability to adopt additional changes to support their own governance models. For Division I, this means that the Transformation Committee will now begin to meet to define what binds Division I together. Initial discussion among the group will follow these key themes:

- The Student-Athlete Experience
- Academic Primacy (athletics is but one component of the higher education experience)
- Holistic Development
- Competitive Excellence

The Division I membership must acknowledge that its breadth of diversity, while a strength, is also a tension point within the structure. Establishing minimum expectations for being a member of Division I could prompt discussion of further subdivision, how investment in student-athletes is measured, and whether that level of investment affords different access by institutions to membership benefits (championships access, revenue distribution and participation in the governance structure).

Student-Athlete Academic Update: Randy Kennedy, Associate Athletic Director, Academic Services, provided information on fall academics. 3.13 average team gpa and three teams with their highest ever GPA were highlights.

Randy encouraged attendance at next Wednesday's basketball game and Top Flight Owls Recognition. The women play at 5 and the men at 7:30. Recognition is at half time of the men's game.

February will be busy for Randy and his staff. Tutoring is going great and so many more student athletes are moving through the new space; they often just come to hang out between classes and appreciate being at the center of campus.

Randy and staff are having APR meetings with coaches, what it looks like now and what it might look like later in year.

FAR and Admission Advisory Committee Update: Dan Niederjohn, Faculty Athletics Representative and Associate Professor of Psychology met with the faculty senate on a potential update to the attendance policy. It was a good discussion, and he will go to their next meeting with some revisions to the policy from that discussion.

Time for the end of Season Survey is approaching. He would like to work collaboratively to get more participation in that survey and is looking for ideas. Can we make it easier?

The Academic Advisory Committee looks primarily at student admits that don't meet all the usual requirements. Dr. Niederjohn is looking at possible improvements to that process.

Other Business

Next Meeting is April 27, 2022. Next year's meetings will be on Thursdays.

Chair Niederjohn adjourned the meeting at 1:20 pm.

The Provost's Athletic Oversight Council approved the Minutes of the February 2, 2022 meeting on April 27, 2022.

DocuSigned by:

Lisa Bauer

May 2, 2022

Lisa Bauer

Date

DocuSigned by:

Dan Niederjohn

May 2, 2022

Dr. Dan Niederjohn

Date