PROVOST'S ATHLETICS OVERSIGHT COUNCIL Academic Integrity & NCAA Rules Compliance Institutional Control Student-Athlete Welfare

Meeting Minutes PAOC Meeting Sept 5, 2024

In attendance: Lisa Bauer, Patrick Vickers, Matthew Iwanski, Randy Kennedy, Milton Overton, Tricia Chastain, Daniel Niederjohn, Matt Mitchelson, Selena Patterson, Anete Vasquez, Stacy Delacruz, Ivan Pulinkala, Tamica Jones, AJ Johnson, Megan Stoltzfus, guests Joshua Todd and Hunter Gillard

Dan Niederjohn, Faculty Athletics Representative opened the meeting at 12:33 with the video, "See us in CUSA." This was followed by introductions and an overview of the purpose of the PAOC.

The minutes of the April 11, 2024 PAOC Meeting were approved.

Joshua Todd from Men's Golf shared about his experience as a sophomore at KSU. He has had his ups and downs and homesickness at first but has made many good friends. Coaches have made him feel comfortable and he has enjoyed being able to travel a bit around America. He feels surrounded by a great team. His day consists of weights and training 7-9MWF, classes 9-12, and practice at 2pm. Hunter Gillard, also from Australia, then shared how his teammates and coaches have been wonderful and helped him adjust to being away from family. His schedule is similar to Joshua's and he tries to get classes done in the morning so he can practice in the afternoon. They Compete as a team, but also compete against each other to qualify for the travel team. In response to a question from Provost Pulinkala, he shared that the assistant coach is also from Australia and that is how he came to know about KSU. He is grateful for the opportunity to come to America as there is not much opportunity in Australia to compete in golf and experience college at the same time. The athletes answered several more questions and are excited about CUSA.

Tamica Jones began the State of the Department Report by sharing the Points of Pride that included the Future Micky Dunn Stadium and the announcement of Wellstar 25million-dollar partnership for Athletics. She shared information on the fall sports getting started including a Cross Country meet last Friday, volleyball home opener this weekend with Louisiana, women's soccer tonight and an exciting Flight 28 running about 2000 students.

Regarding student athlete wellbeing, we had our first session with Mindflow which is a third-party group partnering with CUSA. It provides training for coaches and support for student athletes and is a supplement to our counseling services.

Milton added that Athletics will be adding a full-time sports psychologist sometime this

fall. He then provided a recap of the recent SGA meeting and is glad to see the students really fired up. He appreciates getting their support. When crowds are there, our athletes feed off the energy. He feels that when there are opportunities for students to represent and when they are having a good time, there is a better chance for retention. He will continue working with student government.

Milton thanked the administration, the President, and the Provost for their support. The Baseball Facility is under construction, and everyone worked together to find a solution to losing a practice facility. The institution has been accommodating and baseball is currently practicing in Marietta.

He shared information about the proposal for the \$25 million partnership with Wellstar. Milton thanked Dean Monica Swahn for her assistance in developing the proposal and President Schwaig for her tireless efforts to make it happen. It has several components including \$2 million allocated for a sports performance lab where research will provide real time data for our coaches/trainers/athletes. There is \$12.5 allocated to a sports performance facility including a new weight room and new training room. This holistic approach to a partnership will provide opportunities for improving performance, injury prevention, better facilities and services, a nutrition center, and the research component.

Tamica shared thoughts on preparing for a nutritionist and would welcome suggestions for more research/collaborative support. She is working on refueling stations and improving relations with KSU Dining Services. She is encouraging coaches to order from dining services instead of driving to local retailers. Deliveries from KSU Dining Services are available to coaches and programs. She encouraged everyone to invite families, colleagues, departments, etc to game day and/or practice sessions.

Milton reiterated the offer to come to practices and games and highlighted the "guest coach" program. He shared his excitement about our upcoming research project/facility. It will be a unique facility that will be not only for performance analysis, but it will also have a psychological component. This is important in helping student athletes deal with the daily pressures of student athlete life. He is also looking forward to seeing the other benefits like increased enrollment and additional research dollars.

Megan Stoltzfus, Director of Student Athlete Welfare, shared that Student Athlete Development programming is set. Getting student engagement, career readiness, financial literacy, etc. These programs have been published to students and coaches and will feature some guest speakers.

This summer, her department sponsored some "career treks" where they took secondand third-year athletes out to six different companies/organizations based on their career paths. She is looking for ways to offer this program to other student athletes. They started a new program for SAS leaders. Once a month, there is a 90 min lab with a leader from Chick Fil A to discuss/learn leadership qualities.

Some additional international student athlete recruitment is happening. Some have barriers to acclimation to campus. Figuring out bank accounts, money management, etc. is complicated. We would like to find ways to help in this area. Coaches, advisors, and her team want to help; time is limited, and other efforts would be helpful.

AJ: shared about some changes to the way SAAC is working and how he wants to be more involved with the members. We want them to get something out of the experience so are doing ice breakers and providing opportunities for meeting others. Developing members and giving them opportunities is crucial.

They are currently discussing the awards program and ways to decrease the cost.

AJ is looking for ways to get his members excited. Seeing new and better food/ nutrition options, the available mental health support, and the upcoming new facilities are helpful. He would like to still see more support in financial management, particularly considering NIL. He then shared some highlights from the conference attended in July.

Suggestions about ways to address the financial literacy issues included the ECON 1000 class, summer bridge, or maybe something like the Conversations Partners program. Discussion followed about insurance for international athletes and how medical services are arranged and paid. Milton added that they do get support from our trainers and coaches in this area.

Matthew Iwanski, Associate Athletic Director, Athletics Compliance and Risk Management, shared that there are changes as always regarding Compliance and news from the NCAA. However, there is nothing of high significance to report right not. A lot of preparations are in progress for upcoming changes.

Randy Kennedy, Associate Athletic Director, Academic Services, reported that last year was a very successful academic year with a 3.18 overall for fall and spring. He commended the athletes, the faculty and Provost Pulinkala. Softball had their highest GPA ever, 3.67; 52% of the team had 4.0. Baseball also had their highest at 3.46. There were 72 spring graduates, 32 with academic honors and 37 with all-district csc honors, and multiple team awards. It's a good start so far this fall. Student athletes seem to be taking his advice about getting a strong start.

Team certifications were completed last week, and Randy is preparing to submit APR data to NCAA. There have been great collaborations this year with departments, the SMART Center, and Supplemental Instruction. We did have some challenges this year with deletions and the financial award process has had some issues. The Campus Compliance Committee is assisting with guidance for us and student athletes regarding timing for financial aid, FAFSA, those dropped for non-payment, etc. Discussion ensued regarding the affected students, the solutions provided for them and ways we can avoid this in the future.

Dan Niederjohn, Faculty Athletics Representative and Associate Professor of Psychology provided the FAR and Admission Advisory Committee Update. He shared some results from the End of Season survey. We are seeing improvements in nutrition, higher marks in medical services, coach ratings, and overall experience, and there are no poor ratings this year.

The Admissions Advisory Committee looks at student athletes who don't meet the traditional KSU admission requirements. It seems that all squads are not using all of the available opportunities for these higher risk special admits. Coaches should consider when recruiting. Test Score requirements will come back Fall of 2026 so we will be looking at this and making sure all are aware.

In Other Business, Dan provided a membership update and reminded everyone of the next meeting dates.

November 7, 2024 February 6, 2025 April 3, 2025

Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

The minutes from the September 5, 2024 meeting were approved on November 7, 2024.

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