**Athletic Council Meeting Minutes**  
Nieri Center EEE Classroom  
Wednesday, October 3, 2018, 3:30pm

**Voting Members Present**: William Baldwin, chair; Mike Godfrey, George Fadel, Jack Wolf, Brenda Burk, Bert McCarty, Leverett Bruner, Nolan Lennon, Julia Meredith, George Smith, Jasmine Townsend, Mary Anne Raymond, Jae Espey, Matt Macauley, Brandon Lockhart, Banner Brock.

**Non-Voting Members Present**: Steve Duzan; Elliott Charles; Janie Hodge; Brad Woody; Dan Radakovich; Stephanie Ellison-Johnson; Kyle Cutler; Natalie Honnen; Leslie Moreland

Baldwin convened the meeting at 3:30pm

**Consideration of Meeting Minutes**

The committee approved September meeting minutes after one edit.

**Nieri Academic Center Update/Mental Health issues: Natalie Honnen**

Mental Health Awareness Month - Michael Godfrey invited Natalie to speak on the services available for student-athletes. Dr. Bailey Nevels is on staff (through Redfern) 20 hours a week. She has office hours two days a week in Nieri and 3 days a week in Redfern. Strict confidentiality, self referral, staff referral, drug testing, team issues related to anxiety and stress are all covered as well as general mental health. Athletics also uses the services of the Greenville sports psychologists, Synergy Psych. Dr. Cory Schaffer and Dr. Katie Nichols have offices in Nieri and Dr. Milt Lowder has an office in the Football Operations facility and help with mental performance on a referral basis. Dan commented on our need for an external contact/services to make sure we are creating positive connections for student-athletes, and the preference for external contracts in case current services do not meet our needs.

Current initiatives: All athletics staff are required to attend Tigers Together training (suicide prevention). 100 staff members have completed the training and three more sessions are scheduled. Natalie also discussed the injured student-athlete protocol which includes a mandatory meeting with a staff nutritionist and staff psychologist as well as a wellness survey every two weeks. PAW (Performance and Wellness Team) is a liaison between student-athletes and coaches. A weekly yoga class is available in Nieri.

**Committee Charges**

**Academic Policies and Integrity: Bill Baldwin on behalf of Sheri Webster**

The API subcommittee will meet on October 11th. Elliot Charles will present at the November meeting.

**Student Athlete Welfare and Experiences: Mike Godfrey**

SAWE will work with Natalie and others on finalizing a welfare & equity questionnaire to determine if there are equity differences between women’s and men’s sports, examine perception differences in time allocation and student experiences between coaches and athletes, and determine overall student athlete welfare in sports investigated each semester. Open ended questions will be asked of student athletes, especially about time commitment and their concerns regarding their use of time. Last, we will invite coaches to speak and ask for their perspective regarding time allocation and how they promote academic/athletic/life balance in their programs.

**Administration and Communication: Jack Wolf**

Determine Athletics use of debt to see if there could be a negative effect on the University, especially given the situation at several universities, most prominently UC-Berkeley. Jack commented - South Carolina is one of eight states that prohibit student fees to be used for athletic facilities debt. Dan commented on the UC Berkeley Athletics debt situation and the financing model that has failed them. Clemson has a AA Bond rating and the debt capacity for Athletics is 200 million dollars. Our current debt is 135 million dollars. Last Brandon mentioned that California allows debt to be distributed between universities in California, but South Carolina keeps debt between the state and its colleges separate which provides another layer of protection. This is good news and demonstrates crucial financial precautions. Jack also met with Steven Crump and received significant information on Athletic – Academic finances and those ratios will be used to compare Clemson to other universities.

**SAAC report: Nolan Lennon**

Nolan shared the four main goals of SAAC:

1. Promote sportsmanship – working with Janie to create a video and recognizing ways to show sportsmanship.
2. Mental health committee – equips SAAC members to be ambassadors to their teams.
3. Be more connected – partnering with student government and Administration
4. Communication with other SAAC’s – learn from other schools committees and being active in legislation. Stay informed and work on forming opinions to be able to have a voice in legislation.

SAAC is working with Student Government in “Live Well” week/canned food drive/ACC Diversity & Inclusion through social media.

**FAR report: Janie Hodge**

Deron Gordon (student-athlete on the men’s track team) will attend the ACC Fall meeting here on campus. There is a working group discussing student welfare issues and the ACC interconference transfer rules.

**Athletic Department Report**

1. Question regarding Fan Feedback?

After every home football game, fans are sent an email thank you and a link to give feedback on the game. Dan provided a handout with comments from the first few games of Fall 2018.

1. Dan also commented briefly about the new redshirt rule and its plusses and minuses. Clearly, Clemson was affected recently by the quarterback transfer; however, the combination of the new redshirt rule with graduation can give students significantly greater autonomy and flexibility and that can be a good thing for the athletes.
2. We also discussed the 30 second delay before spectators can enter the field and why that has disappeared as well as the problems it caused implementing that delay, which leads to pile ups of fans at the wall. This is something that the Athletic Department continues to monitor for the safety of fans and athletes.
3. The Faculty Athletic Council and Dan also briefly discussed the 4th quarter video and whether it provides a positive or negative message regarding coaching (mostly to youth and high school coaches) given the “yelling” of a positive message. The general consensus appears to be that most consider the message positive and do not mind the inflexion of the voice. In addition, Batson is not shown yelling at any student athletes and as mentioned previously the message is positive and about the importance of preparation and hard work.
4. Dan also provided information regarding new business primarily pertaining to the ACC network and ESPN. Dan explained that the state of South Carolina is an “inner market” because we have a university inside the state, and that these inner and outer markets determine subscriber costs and estimate the money the ACC will make from the new network. (Notre Dame’s inner market is Chicago).

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 pm. Minutes submitted by Shelly Geer.

Next meeting, Wednesday, November 7th, 3:30 pm.