

Athletic Council Meeting Minutes
Nieri Center EEE Classroom
Wednesday, February 6th, 2019, 3:30pm

Voting Members Present: William Baldwin, chair; Mike Godfrey, Abel Bartley, Jack Wolf, Leverett Bruner, Julia Meredith, Sheri Webster, Jae Espey, Matt Macauley, Brenda Burk, Eric Benson, Jasmine Townsend, George Smith, Mary Anne Raymond, George Fadel

Non-Voting Members Present: Kyle Cutler, Steve Duzan, Janie Hodge, Dan Radakovich, Elliott Charles

Baldwin convened the meeting at 3:30pm

Consideration of Meeting Minutes: December minutes were approved.

General Updates: Baldwin sent notices to the colleges that will be voting on members this year – AAH, College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences, and College of Engineering, Computing and Applied Sciences. Next year the following will vote: Education, CAFLS, Business, and the Library. All should be eligible for 3 year renewable term. Goal is to have the meetings at the same time next year – first Wednesday of the month at 3:30pm.

Baldwin will be looking for a volunteer to take minutes for future meetings, Cutler has agreed to take minutes for February and May meetings.

Athletic Department Report : Radakovich was scheduled to report on long-term athletic facility plans with the group but was asked by the president to hold-off until they are presented to the Board of Trustees. Will present to the AC group in March. He updated the group with all the spring sports that are currently competing and that baseball begins in a few weeks. Construction on the softball field has commenced and first pitch will be in 2020. IPTAY building has been torn down and the building project is moving along nicely. The new renovations to the indoor track facility has resulted in Clemson hosting events as opposed to frequent travel. ACC winter meetings will take place next week – Janie Hodge, Stephanie Ellison, and Dan Radakovich will attend. IPTAY Board meeting will also take place next week. Lots of notoriety with the football team and we were ranked 6th in the country for sale of licensed goods in the final quarter of the year which is proof our brand is at an all-time high. Radakovich hopes to bring more information to the March meeting regarding how much the postseason truly cost beyond the 4.4 million received from the College Football Playoffs. Will ask ACC for additional revenue share to help off-set the cost like they did in 2016. The Athletic Department bought insurance policy for coaching bonuses which saved us about a million dollars in 2016 will not be as lucrative this year. Few schools are doing this and the fear is in the future Clemson may be uninsurable due to the continued success.

SAAC report: Meredith reported on the continued topic of the mental health of student athletes and a survey was conducted with the assistance of Natalie Honnen to determine if they think teams are fully utilizing the services on campus. SAAC is working to promote Project Life whose purpose is to increase the number of Bone Marrow donors, and Meredith would like each representative to pass this information along to their respective colleges. More info to come at next month's meeting.

Nieri Academic Center Update: Duzan reported that things are in full-swing in Nieri. Last night was the etiquette dinner for the student athletes and this Sunday they will be celebrating the partnership with the Multicultural center on campus with a soul-food Sunday event to honor Black History Month. Mentor program is at an all-time high as 48 student-athletes that are working with students at Ravenel Elementary School in Seneca. Tutoring appointments up to around 1300/week. New tutoring coordinator and assistant tutoring coordinator deserve credit and providing new ideas and are benchmarking our programs to be sure we are doing all we can do for our student-athletes. Second highest overall student athlete GPA with a 3.01. Two teams broke team history records for highest GPA – women's basketball and men's football. Award submission season and we had 7 football players receive recognition in ACC.

Integrity violation disconnect - previously Duzan and Hodge would get notification about academic integrity violations as they occurred with names, etc. This information is not shared with staff members and Hodge reported that the student has the right not to share information with coaches, advisors, etc. but Compliance needs the information for eligibility purposes.

Compliance Review: Charles presented the group with the current case at the University of Missouri that is viewed as the academic death penalty and wanted the group to understand the impact. The case involved a tutor completing academic work for student

athletes and many were surprised with the severity of the penalty. Radakovich added that a contributing factor to the penalty is because they are viewed as a repeat offender.

The Compliance Review Document – standard 4-year review and what the University is working to address. Creating awareness around academic fraud monitoring. Charles reported that his office takes an active approach as rules education meetings are set-up with tutors, Nieri, academic units, coaches, and administrative units to be sure all are aware of the rules and the impact. He also spoke on the procedures for how academic misconduct is reported and how the athletic department reacts. The approach has been a little inclusive but moving toward small process updates to help Compliance know if a student is eligible (or not) in real-time. The final point from the report focuses on the tracking of the academic conduct for student athletes and Hodge reported that she receives a report at the end of the semester with the number of athletes and whether they are first or second offenses which allows her to track for trends, etc.

Charles also reported on several new legislations dealing with student athletes that are enrolled less than full-time in their final term being eligible if they are enrolled in the required courses to complete the degree program. This is very important because if that does not occur they forfeit any remaining eligibility. The new rule allows for the courses to also go towards to a minor. There are updates to the 18 hour rule but the degree progress thresholds still exist so this shouldn't really have an impact at Clemson. Duzan added that students who have run into this type of issue are those trying to go to law school or med school and the pre-requisites don't count so waivers had to be submitted.

FAR report: Janie Hodge

The Policy and Procedures Manual that is used for all parties involved in athletic processing was distributed to the group. The FAR group at the NCAA Winter Meeting next week will be discussing academic misconduct topics and one of the components of the proposal involves requiring institutions to have an Athletic Academic Oversight Committee (AAOC) made up from people outside of athletics. Clemson created an AAOC in 2014 that meets at least twice a semester and the group votes on any policy changes to the manual on an annual basis. Cutler compiles reports for the AAOC on grade changes, major and minor clustering, grade distributions, and enrollment caps.

Committee Charges

Academic Policies and Integrity: Webster reported that she followed up with Jeff Appling with three general questions regarding academic conduct. 1) Are students formally identified as an athlete during this process? They are not but many times the student will tell the group they are an athlete. 2) What general percentage of the violations are student athletes? Since they are not identified as an athlete this is not tracked as the students aren't initially categorized by an attribute other than if it is their first or second offense. Wolf reported that second offense results in a minimum of an F in the course and suspension for at least a semester. 3) Is there anything you would like to share with us to deepen our understanding of academic integrity? The process is set-up in a manner to be neutral and they feel they are being successful in this. Hodge added that she receives a report at the end of the semester with the number of athletes and whether they are first or second offenses which allows her to track for trends, etc.

Student-Athlete Welfare and Experiences: Mike Godfrey reported the group was unable to meet but informed the group about the SAACS newsletter that should be shared with the colleges. Baldwin added that Natalie Honnen will speak to the group next month.

Administration and Communication: Wolf reported that he tried to replicate the rating agencies work on athletic debt and they don't provide enough info to compare our debt to other institutions. The first draft will be sent to the subcommittee group for approvals and then it will be presented to the full committee.

Meeting adjourned at 4:28 pm. Minutes submitted by Kyle Cutler

Next meeting, Wednesday, March 6th, 3:30 pm.