



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

3:30 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.

Nieri Auditorium and via Zoom

Attendance

In person: Mary Anne Raymond (Presiding Vice Chair), Greg Batt, Tori Niemann, George Marks, Pat Layton, Brian Booth, Chris Fiocchi, Leslie Moreland, Steve Kaeppler, Antonis Katsiyannis, Kyle Cutler, David Scott

Via Zoom: Brenda Burk (Recording Secretary), Jack Wolf, Dan Radakovich, Oliver Myers, Sarah Cooper, Amari Robinson, Brandon Boatwright, Robert O’Hara, Amanda Richardson, William Reinert, Stephanie Ellison-Johnson, Abel Bartley

I. Welcome

Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Presiding Vice Chair Mary Anne Raymond as Chair Jasmine Townsend is on sabbatical this semester.

II. Approval of April 2021 minutes

Motion made and seconded to approve the April 2021 minutes.

III. New council members

For the first meeting of the year and to welcome new council members, everyone introduced themselves and their school affiliations.

IV. SAAC report – George Marks and Amari Robinson

SAAC kicked off year with a welcome back event that included a fun activity with a little bit of programming. Goal for the year is re-engaging SAACS.

- a. Change the Narrative of SAAC (Togetherness, Involvement, Competition).
- b. Continuing the Momentum (Mental Health, Social Justice, Impacting the Community)

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS COUNCIL

Jasmine Townsend | Athletic Council Chair, Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Management
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- c. Lead by Example (Informing and Influencing the Student-Athlete and Clemson Community)

V. **Committee Membership**

Committee assignments need to be determined. For the assignments, please email Mary Anne Raymond your first, second, and third choice. Descriptions for each committee are:

- a. Academic Policies and Integrity - In conjunction with the Director of Academic Support Services, and as a member of AAOC, review and monitor all policies and procedures related to admissions, academic standards, academic support, registration, curriculum issues, and other related issues affecting student athletes.
- b. Student Athlete Welfare and Experience – In conjunction with the Director of Student Services and Performance, review and monitor issues related to the overall college experience of student athletes outside of the classroom and on and off of the playing/practice field. This will include but is not limited to issues regarding equity, diversity, university resources, and campus community relationships.
- c. Administration and Communication – In conjunction with the Deputy Director of Athletics, review and monitor issues related to the overall administration of athletics that will include annual reviews of athletic budgets, facility plans, and other related issues. Additionally, this committee creates and executes a communication plan to convey appropriate and relevant information from the Athletic Council to the campus community.

Mary Anne Raymond will distribute the procedure document approved at the April 2021 meeting for everyone to review.

VI. **FAR/AAOC report – Antonis Katsiyannis**

NCAA - Changes to the constitution--The Constitution Committee is charged with redrafting the NCAA constitution and providing a working draft of concepts at the Special Convention. Following discussion at the special convention, the final proposals will be provided to the NCAA Board of Governors by Dec. 15 for its sponsorship of the proposals and scheduled for votes in January by the full NCAA membership at the Association's Convention.

Alston ruling leaves college athletics where it was before the case was taken up by the court and provides additional clarity but not definitiveness. Here is what we now know:

- The decision affirmed the NCAA's authority to adopt reasonable rules and we are free to articulate what are and are not truly educational benefits, consistent with our mission to support student-athletes.
- The court found the NCAA should be subject to full antitrust analysis of student-athlete compensation rules.



- The court dismissed NCAA reliance on language within the 1984 *Board of Regents v. NCAA* decision that gave the NCAA “ample latitude” to administer college athletics with respect to antitrust law.
- The court upheld the injunction issued by the 9th Circuit, which among other things, authorized broad student-athlete compensation as long as it is tethered to education.
- Existing and new rules are subject to antitrust analysis and we should expect continued litigation, particularly in the area of “play for pay”.

ACC - Headquarters review two issues: FARs-transfers and NIL

Clemson - AAOC subcommittee to examine the Provost’s manual for streamlining procedures, ensuring consistency, and eliminating redundant information.

Student Athlete GPAs for Fall are 2.95 men’s track to 3.66, men tennis, with average 3.25; and Spring 2.71 baseball to 3.60 and women’s soccer with average 3.15. For the Honor Roll, over 330 students had a 3.0 or higher.

VII. Athletic Academic Services – Matt Lombardi

Matt Lombardi is new to role with academic support services. He’s been at Clemson for over 10 years so he is familiar with the policies and procedures.

- a. Overview of services – Nieri Center is home to the academic services and oversees the area. Steve Duzan promoted. Currently there are 9 academic coordinators along with specialists to assist; tutor coordinator; and director of operations to oversee classroom and book procurement program.
- b. Annual report was distributed to members. Highlights include tutoring programming in the fall, conducted over 10,000 tutor appointments and 1:1 small group appointments and in spring, 7,800; GPAs 3.25 and 3.15 in spring (3.27 and 3.28 for the general populations); now back and re-engaging with the students.

VIII. Director of Athletics report – Dan Radakovich

- a. Gender equity review – Stephanie Ellison-Johnson is the point person and gave the report. They are undergoing a thorough, top to bottom gender equity review over the fall and spring semester. The three areas of focus are 1) participation count – roster management numbers and how it compares to general student population 2) distribution of aid; and 3) overall look at what services and resources provided to student athletes. Stephanie will serve as student advocate and move along any gender equity matters. Dan Radovich reported the review is part of the track & field settlement.



- b. Updates - men's track & field and cross country, two new women's sports - The Board and others looked at men's track & field and cross country programs. If track and field continued, they would need to add some women's sports. Settlement involved the gender equity review from the case brought forward by women track athletes and rowing. They are working with an outside company and the report to be completed in July. As a department, it is important that athletes especially female athletes, are treated with equity. Once the Board decided to keep men's track, they needed to determine what women's sports to add. After 8-week review internally, decided Lacrosse will be added and start competition in Spring 2023. Allison Kwolek hired as first head coach. Women's gymnastics will be added with a search for coach in spring with competition starting in Winter 2024. Currently conducting site evaluations for the Lacrosse and gymnastic practice facilities. Lacrosse will play at historic Riggs Field. Both have generated an incredible amount of interest.
- c. Plans for year; Covid updates - Dan reported trying to get back to normal but not quite 100%. Four ACC championships and individual national championship in golf, #1 draft choice in NFL, and IPTAY broke records

Dan reported that soccer and volleyball are starting, football this Saturday and encouraging fans to wear a mask even outdoors.

Questions for Dan

Is soccer going to full two semesters instead of just fall? They are pushing for it, but the legislation has not moved forward.

Will there be facilities for gymnastics? They will compete in Littlejohn and will have a practice facility.

IX. Other Business

If attending meetings in person, staff will need to let you into the building. Please send Mary Anne Raymond your agenda items. We will be holding two meetings a semester instead of monthly.

Antonis reported that a system is in place to actively recognize our student athletes with ACC and NCAA. They are being proactive, and it reflects well on the student and the institution.

Amari Robinson answered a question posed about if the student athletes are isolated and what do they want to do that the regular student does? Are they getting the student



experience at Clemson? They would like more student involvement but don't know about activities unless it is brought to them. Advisors can give info to Matt to distribute.

Dan gave an update on NIL. Many student athletes, as of July 1, took advantage to monetize. There is ongoing education happening and monitoring in process. So far, a positive experience. Amanda reported the NIL working group meets once a week as staff to see what needs to be developed. For example, contract negotiations, from the educational standpoint such as financials and taxes, are already in place. Pay for Play can't happen such as extra money if in championship game.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Future meeting dates for Athletic Council (All in Nieri Auditorium with Zoom access):

November 3, 2021 @ 3:30 pm <https://clemson.zoom.us/j/95666120865>

January 12, 2022 @ 3:30 p.m. <https://clemson.zoom.us/j/97796489095>

April 6, 2022 @ 3:30 pm <https://clemson.zoom.us/j/93033272480>