



APPROVED April 12, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 16, 2023

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

McFadden Conference Room 106

Presiding: Jasmine Townsend (Chair) jtowns@clemsun.edu; Brian Booth (CECAS); Oliver Myers (CECAS Alt); David Scott (COE); Greg Batt (CAFLS); David Coyle (CAFLS Alt), Modi Wetzler (COS); Mary Anne Raymond (COB); Michelle Colquitt (Library); Michael Godfrey (Faculty Senate Rep); Chris Fiocchi (Student Affairs); Robert O’Hara (GSG); Thomas Newell (USG); Malik Balogun (USG President); Jean Bertrand (Dean of Undergraduate Studies); Graham Neff (AD); Kevin White (Deputy AD); Brad Woody (Compliance); Stephanie Ellison-Johnson (SWA); Matt Lombardi (Academic Support Services); Kyle Cutler (Registrar’s Office); Tori Niemann (Student Athlete Development); Antonis Katsiyannis (FAR).

AGENDA:

I. Welcome and Approval of November 2022 minutes
Minutes approved with no corrections. Unanimous vote to approve.

II. Coach Introduction – Allison Kwolek, Women’s Lacrosse
Coach Kwolek report: 2nd year at Clemson with last year spent heavily recruiting. Lots of freshmen along with 19 transfers and adding one transfer this semester. Roster of 28. Excited to be starting a program and playing in best conference in the country.

Whole group of athletes is new to campus. The team is in the process of developing culture, getting to know each other and understand what it means to play at Clemson. Team building activities have been key in the team development. More work to do, but the coaches are encouraged by their commitment and desire not only to play in the ACC but to be competitive and make a mark right away.

The transfers have primarily come from mid-major athletic institutions, so it has been great for them to see the investment that other athletes put into their sport and the time that they give has been really powerful. They have been amazed at the level of support on the field, in the

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classroom and everywhere Clemson invests in them. Overall it has been a great start and looking forward to kicking off the season on February 11th and show the country what they can do.

Staff is composed of the following people. Bill Olin, former associate head coach at Cornell, has experience starting a lacrosse program and is well thought of in the lacrosse community; Madison Carter, played at Penn State and was the top goal scorer in the BIG IX; and Sam Sorrell, Director of Sport Ops, is from Clemson and has a lot of connections from working with football, so he connects us really well.

Follow-up Questions:

How do you generate energy between sports and classroom performance?

Relationships matter. Show you care. Be engaged. Ask questions and build the camaraderie. Lots of conversations about communication with professors and being engaged in classes. Leave a good perception of lacrosse in the classroom.

How is building the team culture from scratch?

It is the one-on-ones that really matter. Having time to interact is important and we often ask who is someone you have not had a chance to spend time with this week, and then give them opportunities to have that conversation. It can be easy to hide in big groups, so we want to give the quieter players opportunities to connect just as much as the extroverts. Overall just being mindful and giving opportunities to engage with one another.

Can you tell us about yourself and why you decided to come to Clemson?

Previously I was the head coach at Richmond for 9 years. Prior to that I was at Dartmouth and Columbia. When Clemson reached out, we were very excited and it's great to have a lot of support. So much fun to bring athletes from other schools to Clemson and see what Clemson has to offer and "Wow" them compared to where they are coming from.

Chair Townsend explains the purpose of the Athletic Council with regard to Academic Integrity and Student Athlete Wellness and connections between the council and FAR.

Announced: Feb 4th Introduction to the game with event prior to softball scrimmage; Feb 11th home, season and sport opener. Event is designed for kids or new fans of the sport.

What barriers have you experienced?

With lack of youth lacrosse programs, there is a need to grow sport across the state.

Offers of transitional support for the athletes and staff with lacrosse were extended from the council.



Matt Lombardi reported that the 1st team GPA for lacrosse was 3.5. This includes 11 graduate students whose collective GPA was a 3.92.

III. Approval of 2021-2022 Annual Report

Annual report was submitted to council through email. Motion made to approve with no corrections and seconded. No edits. Annual report approved by the Athletic Council.

IV. Athletic Director – Graham Neff

Hoops have been performing well. The Women's Basketball team had their 1st top 10 win in 20 years beating #7 Virginia Tech. The Men's team is ranked in the top 20. Both programs are generating a lot of excitement. Football news really involves the staff changes. Proud of Coach Swinney making a really hard decision and giving a big jolt of energy to the program. Spring sports are getting started. Tennis, lacrosse, softball, baseball, and golf are all ready to get started and everyone prepping to get spring sports going.

PDF of facility updates was provided by AD Neff. One of the big facility projects that will be presented to the BOT will be additions to the Jervey Gym. This facility will be a performance and wellness center. Strength and conditioning, sports medicine, rehabilitation and recovery, nutrition and dining hall will be included. Facility will be available for all teams but mainly utilized by Olympic sports. Football and Men's/Women's basketball already have facilities for this. Location will be just south of Jervey Gym in the current grass lot. Additions will coincide with upgrades to Jervey gym and some light renovations to the Jervey basement facilities and will also include improvements for Volleyball and Volleyball locker rooms. Cost will be fifty million dollars all of which is paid for directly from athletics. Renovations will not impact Volleyball home games and practice facilities during the season as construction will begin in December of 2023 and full competition is anticipated in December of 2024. Volleyball area will be completed between seasons. Parking lot 5 construction outside of the football stadium is underway and scheduled to be completed by August. The Women's sports expansion project is also underway for Rowing, Lacrosse, and Gymnastics.

NCAA changes: New NCAA president, Charlie Baker, is the former governor of Massachusetts. Political aspects of new president is that he is a Republican governor from a democratic state, so he has a lot of bipartisan experience which can be beneficial for the NCAA as they try to navigate NIL and possible federal regulations.

Football schedule to come out on Jan 30th. Home games include Notre Dame, UNC, and FSU.

V. FAR report – Antonis Katsiyannis

Graduation Success Rate (GSR) across all sports of 95%. A 95% success rate is a great overall review of GSR data of athletics. Approximately 90 football players with a GPA at or over 3.0.



Antonis presented PowerPoint with individual sport data. Takeaway is academic performance has been great.

VI. Academic Support Services – Matt Lombardi
a. Canvas Observer update

Previous conversations centered on working with faculty senate and scholastic policies on this for transparency purposes and that group was not supportive of this group using Canvas Observer as a resource in the athletic department. We will continue to look at and present so there is a clear understanding of the resource and how it is used by other academic support units around campus. We have accepted 13 volunteers across 5 colleges to pilot the Canvas Observer in the spring, however this is on hold as we work through the faculty senate report as not to upset anyone. We do believe some of the information presented to the faculty senate from the scholastic policy committee was misleading and a misrepresentation of the request for a meeting.

Chair Townsend asked how the council could be helpful and Matt just asked the council to be willing to answer questions from any members of their colleges in regard to what Canvas Observer is and what it allows users to do.

Lombardi: I do not think a proactive measure needs to be taken at this time, but please be willing to answer questions and be informative to others in your college regarding Campus Observer in case any additional questions arise.

Suggestions were made by the council members to create and distribute to the council a bullet point description of Canvas Observer so all communications were the same across the colleges. Additionally, it was suggested to have the 13 pilot volunteers share their names so they can communicate their experience with other faculty. Obvious miscommunication existed as the scholastic policy changed members and new terms began. Then this committee was charged with taking up this issue with no direct communication with the faculty senate rep to athletics, the athletic council chair, FAR, or director of academic services in Nieri. This lack of communication appears to be the direct cause of the scholastic policy committees' findings with the misunderstanding that the academic advisors for athletics were seeking a policy on allowing this to occur when in reality they were trying to promote collaboration and transparency through this process. Mike Godfrey, the faculty senate representative will discuss this with the faculty senate president to determine most appropriate steps moving forward.

As advocates of Canvas Observer, it was suggested to be added to a course as a Canvas Observer so the council has direct experience on what being an Observer to a Canvas Course provides access to. Canvas Observer already currently exists and is not unheard of, it is mainly unknown. What athletic academic services is requesting is not inappropriate, it is the unknown element that did not come across where others were comfortable.



Initial concern from athletic academic services is getting the official minutes and record corrected as to the intention of using Canvas Observer. It is a resource we can use to efficiently serve more students. SO, at minimum, we need to get the purpose of the request correct. FAR: Knowing what Nieri is for, this is exactly the function and access that would allow them to be proactive. There are just misconceptions in general on support for student athletes, and if others understood more about what this means and the time requirements, they would understand the need for support. Nieri is an academic support entity, so it is unfortunate there were misconceptions about this and how it will be used. The inaccurate information and language from the report was concerning as it appears a decision was made on inaccurate information, so correcting the record from the faculty senate is important. If you have consent from the faculty and student, there should not be an issue with any aspect of the faculty senate.

This has been discussed and presented at the Athletic Council meeting, has full approval from this faculty council and full approval from the Faculty Athletic Representative. Concluding statement is to address the scholastic policies report and seek corrections to the intent and language within this report. Mike Godfrey will work with FAR, Director of athletic academic services, and Athletic Council Chair moving forward.

Fall 2022 Grade Report:

Fall Semester GPA report: Overall Athletic Department GPA is 3.23 (highest on record), (3.33 was general student population)
Cumulative GPA was 3.23 (71.5% of student athletes earned a 3.0 or higher in the fall; 72% have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher; 38 male and 63 female student athletes achieved a 4.0 in the fall semester; 48 active student athletes have a cumulative 4.0)
5 programs had record high team GPA's (Softball had a 3.68 team GPA which was highest ever for an athletic team; Women's CC had a 3.67, women's soccer and women's gymnastics had a 3.61). Overall, 18 of 19 programs had a 3.0 or higher.

31 mid-year enrollees this year which is a little higher than typical. 22 of this 31 are first time freshmen. 6 in this group were undergraduate transfers and 3 were graduate transfers. Info on orientation/programming to campus was provided on being a student athlete, academic expectations, social expectations and what it means to be a student athlete at Clemson.

VII. Other Business
No other business.

VIII. Future Athletic Council meeting dates
a. April 12, 2023
Meeting adjourned at 5:04pm