

# Student Athlete Welfare and Experience Committee

## End of Year Report

### **Responsibilities of the Student Athlete Welfare and Experience Committee:**

The Student Athlete Welfare and Experience committee will address issues related to the overall college experience of student athletes outside of the classroom and on and off the playing/practice field. This will include but is not limited to issues regarding equity, university resources, and campus community relationships.

### **Major Initiatives for 2018-19:**

Team Equity

Player Safety while on campus

Mental Health Initiatives

Connections to SAACs

Athlete Travel schedules and time away from campus

Academic Admissions Scandal\*

### *Team Equity*

As a charge from the president's office, this committee was asked to specifically investigate 2 issues involving our athletic teams. The first issue was the treatment of athletes by the coaching staff and methods for reporting issues. This request stemmed from a previous event and was put in place as a preventative measure. Players and coaches were contacted to discuss the general methods of reporting as well as having the head coach of the Volleyball team come in and present on their team's culture, standards, and expectations. The second issue was to begin to look at the equity between sports where both males and females participate (golf, soccer, basketball, etc.). This process is ongoing.

### *Player Safety while on campus*

Player safety came up as multiple events occurred across the country involving the assault or death of student athletes. The committee inquired with multiple groups on safety concerns.

While very few concerns were communicated, it was advised that coaches, team captains, and academic advising personnel be vocal and constantly remind student athletes to be vigilant and Salways travel in pairs. Especially when leaving facilities at night. The Rowing facility was a concern as it is located in a secluded area.

### *Mental Health Initiatives*

Mental Health initiatives continue to be a core focus of the athletic department and SAACs. This committee discussed the programs and initiatives provided for student athletes as well as how the academic programs could help. SAACs is currently working on a promotional video on “Breaking the Stigma” for all CU student athletes. This has been a major university focus for the past 2 years.

### *Connections to SAACs*

The connections of this committee to SAAC is important. Adding this connection this year allowed this committee understand the current concerns and how the athletes, coaches, and department are addressing those concerns. This committee also was able to help promote the SAACs initiatives.

### *Athlete Travel schedules and time away from campus*

Time away from campus continues to be an area of investigation, especially with men’s and women’s track. The coaches have made a point to try and minimize time away from campus, especially on consecutive weeks.

### *Academic Admissions Scandal\**

The faculty senate president asked this committee to investigate what processes we have in place to prevent faulty admissions similar to the academic admissions scandal that arose in the Spring of 2019. Working with Compliance, Athletic Department personnel, FAR, Admissions, and Registrars office, it was determined that our policies are sound and in place to prevent any similar issues occurring here at Clemson. One area of concern was having a single individual be able to list a PSA as a recruit for pre-admission or preferred admission. To handle this concern, now PSA’s are vetted by multiple individuals rather than a single person.