

Kennesaw State University

Athletics Board

November 6, 2013

Meeting Notes

Voting Members Present: Janeen Amason, Maria Britt, J.C. Bradbury, Ronald Bullock, Richard Franza, Jim Herbert, Rebecca Makus, Don McGarey, Sara Metroka, Dan Papp, Kandice Porter, Jerome Ratchford, Rick Siegel, Lynn Stallings, Randy Stuart, and Vaughn Williams

Voting Members Not Present: Stephen Braden, Barbara Calhoun, Dara Hudson, Ronco Johnson, Bob Mattox

Non-Voting Members Present: Michael Redd, Randy Kennedy, Maureen McCarthy, Karen Pfeifer, Heath Senour, Brenda Stopher, Kim West

Non-Voting Members Not Present: Mike Harders, Erik Malewski

Guests: Cheryl Matson, Paul Parker

Richard Franza opened the meeting by asking for introductions around the room by all attendees. He noted adjustments to the agenda including the resumption of “Coach’s Corner” with our next meeting in February. The main focus of this meeting is the discussion of the Special Admits proposal.

Vaughn Williams, KSU Athletic Director, gave a brief state of the department including updates on team sports including, soccer, tennis, volleyball, golf, and basketball. Football personnel are moving into their offices across from Town Pointe and Football has 1700 season tickets sold. “Sturgis”, the KSU live owl mascot, enjoyed a positive unveiling at “Flight Night” and will be featured in an upcoming AJC feature news story.

With the major announcement from the Board of Regents to consolidate KSU and Southern Polytechnic State University, Dr. Franza asked President Papp for an update, particularly how it would impact athletics. Dr. Papp indicated that there will be an appointed implementation committee consisting of approximately ten people from each institution. They will be the overarching committee and will be directing a whole host of operational committees underneath the implementation committee. Town hall meetings will be conducted to share as much information as possible to all faculty, staff and students along the way. Specifically regarding the Athletic Program, Dr. Papp indicated he didn't know any plans yet, and will have to wait for direction from the implementation team. Monies saved with this consolidation will be redirected for research, instruction, and educational support. The main deciding factors for this consolidation were:

- Reduction in combined administration and duplicative operations.
- KSU and Southern Poly students will gain enrichment from our academic programs being substantially complementary to each other.
- This consolidation will offer a greater set of student programs and provide students with more options to engage with at their university.

GSR/APR reports were discussed by Randy Kennedy. Handouts provided detailed sport-by-sport reporting and showed progression of our graduation rate. The complete NCAA report is uploaded to the Athletic Board I drive detailing all demographic information. We are improving our overall GSR, with a slight bump in large part when we went to Division I. In overview, this is the first year that all our teams have an APR above 930. Our trends are looking good. The lowest is the lacrosse team with a 905, due to it being the first year in the program.

Richard Franza asked for any discussion or corrections of the minutes from September 11, 2013, Athletic Board Meeting. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

With the goal of having a vote at the conclusion of this meeting regarding the Special Admissions process proposal, Richard Franza introduced the proposal making the following key points:

- Tom Keene did most of the writing and editing of this document. Since, early summer the Admissions Advisory Committee has been participating in a series of meetings developing this document. Motivation behind this was driven by the introduction of football and additional Title IX sports. One factor is the volume of special admits that would occur with the addition of football and additional sports creating a timing issue and limiting the ability of the coaches to make offers in a competitive manner. While football was part of the rationale for doing this, one thing for certain, is that this process will hold true for all sports.
- The key lever in the process is the Academic Progress Rate (APR) that governs every university in Division I. We want to protect ourselves in terms of academic integrity.
- Three types of Special Admits are discussed in detail in the proposal. The proposal most specifically addresses Type II's. Currently, coaches go through the Admissions Advisory Committee for a recommendation to Admissions. The new process addresses Type II's by managing risk. The new process targets an APR of 940 to provide a buffer beyond the required 930. Each team's risk is assessed based on the composition of its current roster.
- The richness of this particular methodology is the use of larger sample sizes to make better decisions. This enables ease of use for the coaches to understand team statistical analysis and operationalizing of their recruiting cycle. Coaches will be informed of the number of Type II admits allowed for his/her team at the start of the recruiting cycle. The Admissions Advisor Committee may adjust the number slightly based upon the teams past performance and their culture.

- We have created the 2.55 rule. If the student has a KSU high school GPA of 2.55 with college core classes, the coach is allowed to make an offer of guaranteed admission to KSU. This enables coaches to make offers, early in the recruitment process.
- Our goal is to provide coaches with their risk allowance very early in the academic year. Therefore; the calendar is subject to change.
- The role of this board remains unchanged and continues strategic oversight of academic integrity and institutional control. The Admissions Advisory Committee will remain the central gatekeeper of the special admit process. At this time, the proposal defers dealing with international students due to the high level of variability from country to country. This particular issue will be discussed further in a following AAC meeting.

Questions were raised regarding that with football being new, how do we get numbers? To operationalize this, we are going to use the existing database we have for our current student-athletes in other sports. Football APR will not count until 2018, so we want to run with numbers that make sense now.

Question raised regarding where mathematical formula is in proposal that is used for the risk assessment? Deferred to Tom Keene and Maureen McCarthy for further discussion. Type III's will have much higher individual risk coefficient, and will be rare. Type III's will still have to go through the previous AAC evaluation process.

Question raised with suggested amendment to proposal regarding risk allowance found on page four, will be a single whole number – so as coaches accumulate riskier athletes, those will go into the next year's calculations. How the coach recruits will further affect future allowances. Proposal will be amended to be made clearer.

Dr. Papp added that this process is creating greater accountability for the coaches. It is important that if a coach moves on, APR will move with him/her. With a bad APR, a coach will find it hard to find a job.

With no further discussion on the proposal, a secret ballot vote was taken. Dr. Franza announced who in attendance had voting privileges. Kim West and JuLee Childre counted the votes. The vote passes with sixteen yes votes and one no vote. With the proposal passing, all new processes will begin with Summer 2014 admits.

The next regular meeting is scheduled on February 12, 2014.

Per the request of Vaughn Williams, a meeting is to be arranged with the head coaches to provide information regarding this approved proposal as soon as possible.

With no further business, Dr. Franza adjourned the meeting.