

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY  
ATHLETICS BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING  
SUMMARY NOTES NOVEMBER 5, 2014

*Present:* Janeen Amason, Maria Britt, Jason Brown, Richard Franza, Jim Herbert, Randy Kennedy, Francis Kabongo, Rebecca Makus, Maureen McCarthy, Donald McGarey, Daniel Niederjohn, Jerome Ratchford, Susan Rouse, Heath Senour, Rick Siegel, Deborah Smith, Lynn Stallings, Vaughn Williams

*Special Guest:* Coach Michael Sansing and KSU Student Representative to the NCAA, Brittney Reed

Dr. Franza welcomed everyone and introductions were made around the table.

The "Coaches Corner" was presented by Michael Sansing, KSU Baseball Head Coach. He spoke about "a day in the life" of his baseball program. Last Spring was a great time and led to an unbelievable finish. Winning the conference and then on to win a NCAA regional over Alabama, Georgia Southern, and Florida State. This was a special season for our players and it united the campus, community and state. Typical day for our players is lifting weights at 8:00am, then class 9:00am-2:00pm and then practice from 2:00pm-5:00pm. Some athletes return to class after practice. Successfully achieving 1000 on the APR was especially important. He is talking to players constantly about graduating. A significant challenge for Coach Sansing is dealing with the MLB draft. We have student athletes, with junior or senior standing and the MLB comes in and most of the time, they take them away. With the new rules about tobacco use from the Board of Regents, the subject was brought into discussion. Although it is something of a cultural thing for baseball, Coach Sansing emphasized that tobacco is forbidden. There is a NCAA rule to not smoke or dip during practice or competition. Kennesaw State University baseball team finished 13<sup>th</sup> in the country and are very proud of their achievements.

With no discussion, the minutes from September 10, 2014 were voted on and approved.

Vaughn Williams gave the State of the Department address and kindly introduced KSU soccer player, Ms. Brittney Reed. She is the SAC representative for the NCAA. Brittney will be observing how we fully operate and taking this knowledge to the NCAA as student athlete welfare and other issues are discussed. Autonomy talks and scholarship discussion between the big five conferences continue to be a major topic with the NCAA. At the October 22, A-SUN Conference, it was announced that they are forming a relationship with LakePoint Sporting Center located in Emerson, Georgia. LakePoint will feature state-of-the-art sports venues and five million square feet of amenities all located on 1,300 acres. This is a great venue for young athletes around the area to see the A-SUN banners and connection with KSU athletics.

Regarding recent NCAA developments and compliance issues, Heath Senour updated the committee on both the UNC case regarding academic fraud and the Todd Gurley case at UGA. Dr. Franza added that this is what this body is responsible for and ensuring it doesn't happen at KSU. We are the President's eyes and ears and we are at the intersection of academics and athletics. Important for us, our responsibility includes the institutional control piece when it comes to academics. Still on the table, the NCAA is considering the possibility for student-athletes to earn money for using their name and likeness. This all feeds into the importance of rules education and compliance. Heath and his team held several rules education sessions and provided a handout showing approximately 450 people in attendance. Heath has been invited to speak at North Cobb Christian School and speak to their prospective student athletes and parents about NCAA eligibility requirements. The second chart is the 2014-2015 Self-Reports data to be submitted to NCAA. Athletic Director Williams commented that although he dislikes violations, there is no way to be perfect, and if you don't have violations, something is wrong. We want to do the right thing and create an environment of where people pay attention. Heath will be processing approximately 30 NLI high school seniors committing to KSU for the 2015-16 academic year. The A-SUN assistant commissioner will be on campus conducting a compliance review report on April 15 & 16, 2015. He will be reviewing organizational structure, policy manuals, forms, conducting interviews and fully evaluating our program.

Randy Kennedy gave an update on the Academic Progress Rate Institutional Report (APR) and the Graduation Success Rate (GSR). Regarding APR, anything below a score of 930 is subject to NCAA penalties. Our multi-year rates are good. The only team exception is the women's lacrosse score is 918. They are only in their second year in existence and they are a start-up program with students coming and going. Trends for our programs are good. Randy is very pleased that seven of our teams had a perfect 1000 APR score. Two teams that will be recognized by the NCAA Programs of Distinction is our men's golf team and women's cross country team. The APR is what we use as we administer our special admits policy. This is a big driver and helps identify potential risks for teams. The Graduation Success Rate (GSR) is a NCAA generated report. With the previous four years of reports we have submitted, our numbers have fluctuated and are down a bit. Some this may be attributed to a transition phase of going to Division I. We experienced various coaching and administrative changes. Randy anticipates that those numbers will go up, depending on retention. He also plans to look at how we compare in our state and conference.

Dan Niederjohn reported on the (AAC) Admissions Advisory Council. The Special Admits policy is working well. A concern has been raised that some students who fall short of meeting KSU admissions requirements are not identified early enough and are told last minute that they are not going to be admitted to KSU. That is a disservice to prospective student athletes and we wish to minimize that from happening. Dan and the committee have suggested two procedural items. First, to improve transparency of the process, have all prospective students sign a NLI that requires a PSA tracking form, test scores and transcripts to be provided. Secondly, set early deadlines for any Type II's and Type III's that are to be submitted to committee. The AAC's job is to meet with the coaches and communicate these measures and encourage early completion of processing all paperwork.

Vaughn Williams is waiting on final audit numbers. Controls and journal entries were found more than adequate. He is moving forward with next year's budget.

Dan Niederjohn was made aware that the A-SUN lacrosse conference championships will fall during our finals. A vote among the executive committee will take place to consider this board policy exception, but he wished to bring this situation to the board's attention and open up for any discussion. Preferable support was suggested for athletes to take exams early, before departure to competition. Student athletes are encouraged to work with and stay in immediate communication their professors as soon as the semester begins regarding any scheduled absences.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned by Dr. Franza.