

Kennesaw State University

Athletics Board Committee Meeting

Summary Notes April 29, 2015

Present: Janeen Amason, J.C. Bradbury, Jill Brady, Jason Brown, Khylil Chestnut, Richard Franza, Cindy Gillam, Matt Griffin, Jim Herbert, Randy Kennedy, Robert Mattox, Donald McGarey, Daniel Niederjohn, Brittney Reed, Steve Ruthsatz, Heath Senour, Rick Siegel, Deborah Smith, Lynn Stallings

Special Guest: Coach Brian Bohannon (Football)

The meeting began at promptly 12:30pm as Dr. Franza welcomed everyone and introductions were made around the room.

Coach's Corner: Coach Bohannon stated that many good things are going on and he, his staff, and players are looking forward to game day! Recruiting for spring is in full swing right now for next year. It is important to find the right fit for KSU not only athletically, but also academically. With a team consisting of mostly freshmen, he is providing a very structured agenda for his student athletes. Their day begins with breakfast check in at 6:30am and then a team meeting at 7:15am. At 8:45am, they conduct sports training for approximately two hours, leaving the student athlete's class time between noon and 7:00pm. They are required two hours of study hall every day and tutors are accessible when needed. Their day is pretty well mapped out and he wants to ensure their academic success and receive the investment that KSU has made in them. Coach Bohannon shared that his two biggest challenges thus far have been that KSU was the best kept secret, and when you do get the kid on campus, it sells itself. Also, with no juniors or seniors to learn from, there will be mistakes. Coach Bohannon emphasized that these student athletes, while young, are doing great and working very hard to be the best inside the classroom and on the field. His approach for the football program is laying a positive foundation for Kennesaw State University and doing things the right way to build a successful team.

With no objections or further discussion, the minutes from February 11, 2015 were approved.

Matt Griffin provided the *State of the Department* including the announcement that Al Skinner was hired as the new men's basketball coach. On March 28, the Spring football game was attended by 4,000 and a feedback survey on the experience has been sent out. To date, 80% of seats have been sold for football season tickets. Baseball Coach Mike Sansing has won his 1000th game as of March 27th. Andy Eggerth was named Atlantic Sun Men's Track Coach of the Year. KSU women's golf team won the A-SUN tournament by 30 strokes and the men finished second in the A-SUN tournament.

Heath Senour provided copies of the compliance self-reports submitted to the NCAA and A-SUN, and the dates of rules education sessions presented. Rules education is the foundation of his office and these are the presentations made to the support units in the Athletic department. On April 15–16, the A-SUN compliance representative, Mike Hagan completed the compliance review of the KSU athletic program. This visit provides a sense of our compliance culture and interviews were conducted with staff, student athletes, financial aid office, coaches, Dr. Franza, and Dr. Niederjohn. A report will be shared in approximately 90 days with suggestions and an overall analysis of what improvements could be made to the KSU compliance program.

The big picture for NCAA focuses on cost of attendance legislation. How this is going to impact us for the foreseeable future regarding recruiting and student welfare is still to be resolved. Some schools do not like the difference in the dollar values between schools because it becomes a recruiting advantage. Their conversations will determine whether there is going to be a consistent cost model or institutionally-based. Our most recent NCAA violations appeared in the paper; the article was not framed correctly and makes it sound worse than it is. Our culture of compliance in monitoring systems *is* working. Coaches are self-reporting and if you don't have any violations, then you are not doing your job.

The FAR update was given by Dan Niederjohn. End of season surveys with the teams were completed and the participation was good from our student athletes. End of season surveys included questions about coaching staff and student welfare issues. This tool also measures resources available on campus. Dan conducted exit interviews with seniors with on a one-on-one basis. Findings will be reported to this committee in the Fall.

Dr. Franza and Dr. Niederjohn lead a discussion on the role of the KSU Athletics Board and how it differs from the Athletic Association. The number one mission for this board is maintaining academic integrity. We are President Papp's eyes and ears. The board also has responsibility for and is an instrument of institutional control and NCAA rules compliance. The Athletic Association is a fiduciary body relating to all financial matters related to athletics. From the discussion of the Executive Committee Meeting, it was brought forward that we may want to add to our banner and charter to include the area of student athlete welfare. We are concerned about our student athletes and wish to ensure they have an outlet for concerns and a confidential place to go with issues. Suggestions for implementing a proactive line of communication included, identifying a potential student athlete ombudsman or utilizing the Dean of Students, Dr. Sanseviro. Another venue discussed was to provide something totally separate, as an anonymous hotline so the student athletes would not feel intimiated in expressing concerns. Dan Niederjohn, Bob Mattox and Rick Siegel volunteered to further assist formulating a possible task force that would then bring forward any collective concerns to the teams Program Administrator. Dr. Franza asked to be emailed directly if other members of the committee wished to serve on this task force for student athlete welfare.

The Admissions Advisory Committee (AAC) update was given by Dan Niederjohn. Significant clarity has been added to the special admits process and the coaches are happy. Opening the lines of communication, AAC members met with the University Admissions Appeals Committee (UAAC) on what we do and how we are vetting the detailed process regarding data collection on special admits process. This meeting was extremely positive and they are more informed of the steps we are taking to ensure these prospective student athletes can succeed at Kennesaw State.

The Academic Support Committee update was given by Randy Kennedy. We had 25 student athletes graduate in spring and 14 will be graduating the end of summer. Awards include 8 Academic All-Conference teams and 2 A-SUN Scholar Athletes of the Year. SASS conducted an assessment on their tutors and advisors from student athlete's perspective on how we are perceived and what we can do for improvement. With the influx of football, the most challenging issue faced is tutoring logistics. Randy indicated they are working around this with two separate locations and the budget increase has helped significantly with the increase of student athletes.

Dr. Franzia concluded the meeting by announcing the tentative dates for 2015-2016 meetings were: 9/9/2015, 11/4/2015, 2/10/2016, and 4/27/2016. He thanked those whose service on the Athletic Board ends this academic year. With no further business, Dr. Franzia adjourned the meeting at 1:45pm.