

Kennesaw State University

Athletics Board Meeting

Summary Notes September 9, 2015

Present: Janeen Amason, Maria Britt, Jason Brown, Jimmy Calloway, Patrick Devine, Bronne Dytoc, Katie Egloff, Rick Franza, Jim Herbert, Randy Kennedy, Marina Koether, Scott Larisch, Tamara Livingston, Dan Niederjohn, Dan Papp, Matthew Prater, Jon Preston, Steve Ruthsatz, Heath Senour, Rick Siegel, Deborah Smith, Lynn Stallings, Karen Vickers, Kim West, K.C. White, Vaughn Williams, Chi Zhang, Christine Zelt

Special Guest: Coach Nitra Perry (Women's Basketball)

Introductions

Dr. Franza began the meeting promptly at 12:30pm. He welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the academic year and reviewed the meeting scheduled. Introductions were made around the room.

Coach's Corner

Coach Perry provided a handout "A Day in the Life of a KSU Women's Basketball Player," outlining a typical daily schedule for one of her Freshman and Senior student athletes. The daily schedule did not include travel time for away games and game time. Coach Perry emphasized how little free time the student athletes have between classes, mandatory study hall, and practice. Time management is one of the biggest challenges, especially when it comes to planning the day to make sure time is set aside for meals before and after practice. Practices average 2 ½ - 3 hours per day for a maximum practice schedule of 20 hours per week. Some practices may last up to 4 hours per day depending on what game preparation is needed. Coach Perry also provides other opportunities for the athletes, such as wellness meetings to discuss nutrition, time management, and stress management. For the 2014-2015 Academic Year, the Women's Basketball Team achieved a 17-13 win-loss season record, which was the best record the team has had in Division 1 history, while maintaining a 3.1 GPA for the summer term and a 3.0+ GPA for the spring term. Coach Perry focuses the team on time management, taking care of their physical well-being, and becoming successful in life. Being a student athlete starts with the recruiting process. There are seven (7) new players for the 2015-2016 season including three (3) local players and one (1) international player. Board members inquired about the total commitment, in hours, inclusive of practices, games, and travel time for the Women's Basketball team. Coach Perry estimated a 40+ hour per week time commitment while carrying an average of 15 credit hours (with a required minimum of 12 credit hours) per semester. Coach Perry outlined the several resources available for the student athletes to take advantage of their time and manage their time:

The Freshmen are required to attend ten (10) hours per week study hall, the Assistant Coaches participate in a student athlete mentoring program, and there are team-building activities and sessions on coping skills. An emphasis was placed on student athletes having a choice – athletics is a choice, but there has to be a vocational side, an educational side that will lead to graduation and how to become a better leader. Part of this includes servant leadership and community service that are part of a student athlete’s experience to help them stretch and reach all facets of their potential as athletes and as people.

Special Agenda Item: Role of the Athletics Board vs. Athletic Association

Dr. Franza reviewed the role of the KSU Athletics Board. The Board exists to serve President Papp, with duties related to academics and athletics and institutional control. The KSU Athletics Association (KSUAA) is a separate body. Dr. Franza introduced Dr. Papp to present upcoming changes between the groups. There is often confusion between the KSUAA and the Athletics Board. The Athletic Board has been in existence for approximately nine (9) years, instituted in 2006, and prior to that there was an Intercollegiate Athletic Committee, which was the previous manifestation of the Board. The Athletic Association has been in existence for approximately six (6) years. The functional differences between the two bodies are:

Athletics Board

- Focuses on the academic side of student-athlete life
- Focuses on aspects of the campus experience
- Board membership is comprised of faculty, staff and students

Athletic Association

- Financial and fundraising
- External athletics operations
- Association membership is comprised of faculty, staff, students and a significant number of people from the off-campus community

Dr. Papp requested for the Board to:

1. Review and revise the by-laws to reflect 2015-2020
2. Rename the Athletics Board for clarity and to better define it from the Athletic Association
3. Define the Athletics Board’s primary functions

Dr. Franza will draft new by-laws and email to the Board for review and comment. A vote on the revised by-laws will take place at the November meeting.

Approval of Minutes

With no objections or further discussion, the minutes from April 29, 2015 were approved.

State of the Department

Athletic Director Vaughn Williams thanked the Board members for their collaboration and partnership. **Women's Basketball:** team had the most wins in since joining Division I. **Men's Basketball:** new coach, Al Skinner. **Cross Country:** held its first races the weekend of September 5th and saw good running times. New Coach is David Poteet. **Men's Golf:** New Coach is Brian Odom. **Tennis:** Non-regular season starts the weekend of September 12th. Director of Tennis, Eduardo Rincon coaching both men's and women's tennis. New campus tennis courts are now open and team no longer has to travel for practice. **Soccer:** 3 wins, 2 losses, 1 tie. **Volleyball:** Team is undefeated at 6 wins, 0 losses. The team beat Georgia State for the first time at its September 5th game. **Football:** The Kennesaw community is embracing Black & Gold. Season tickets are sold out and a limited number of single game tickets are available for purchase online. CW69 will televise some games. **Conference Updates:** New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) is new in conference. KSU is in the Atlantic Sun conference for all sports except football. KSU is in the Big South conference for football. **Owls Champions Initiative:** Student-athlete development includes community service, leadership academy, career development, sports dietician, sports psychology, character development, and a 3rd year internship to result in high graduation rates and competitive post-college employment. **Flight Plan** for career development: includes a mandatory internship for the Junior/3rd year student-athletes. **Other:** Financially, Athletics has met the Board of Regents requirements. Athletics is using football as the platform to obtain more donors. Four years ago there were only 30 donors. There are currently 1,100 donors. Coach Brian Bohannon conducted a radio interview about his "Win the Day" total student-athlete experience.

Compliance

Heath Senour presented information about the Cost of Attendance legislation adopted in January at the NCAA convention. This legislation allows student-athletes to receive an athletic scholarship up to the institution's defined cost of attendance. Previously it was limited to the full grant-in-aid amount for tuition/fees/room/board/books. The cost of attendance includes the cost of transportation, miscellaneous expenses, optional books and a host of other expenses that the institution, based on the financial aid calculation, can provide as a member institution of the NCAA. This has a financial impact to athletics departments because it is being used as a student-athlete recruiting mechanism. There is a gap between the full grant-in-aid amount and the total cost of attendance. KSU has a \$7,500 gap. KSU recruiting will not be impacted in the near future because of its conference. The NCAA Board of Directors and Legislative Council will discuss institutions' requests to put a cap on the dollar value to provide consistency from school to school to alleviate recruiting disparity. Dr. Papp highlighted the disparity in competitive capabilities among some institutions and provided examples of how the cost of attendance is variously defined from institution to institution. Conference rules are being discussed to maintain a competitive balance and to address the concern about the cost of transfers and transfer rules.

FAR Update

Dan Niederjohn addressed student-athlete welfare by presenting the results of the Academic Year 2014-2015 end-of-season survey. This 25-minute survey is administered to all KSU athletic teams and focuses on the balance of educational and athletic lives, as well as day-to-day operational involvement with faculty and students. Individual results are confidential.

The survey gauges the equity in overall campus experience for student-athletes, whether student-athletes feel they have a “voice” on campus, rating the Coaches for encouraging academic success and flexibility for academic commitments, and what factor has the greatest impact on academic performance. Dan updated the Board on the Executive Committee’s approval for the Women’s Basketball team to compete in a home game on the Saturday of Finals Week. Dan is seeing a positive trend of student athletes communicating more effectively with faculty members when competition schedules conflict with class/exam schedules.

Campus Coaches/Department Liaisons

Dr. Franza described these programs, which will both be led by Dan Niederjohn. Department Liaisons are identified faculty members in each academic department on both campuses who student athletes can go to if they have scheduling issues, issues with a professor, etc. Campus Coaches are on-campus mentors, other than the teams’ Coaches, whom the student-athletes can go to for guidance.

Oversight Committees

Dan Niederjohn gave the Admissions Advisory Committee (AAC) update. He described the special admit process and educating the Coaches and collaborating with them to make sure they understand the process. The AAC meets with the Coaches at least once per year to identify the risks associated with admitting student athletes based on a tier system. The special admits process will be covered in more detail at the November 4, 2015 meeting.

The Academic Support Committee (ASC) update was given by Randy Kennedy. The ASC is responsible for providing student athletes support in the classroom. The ASC staff is comprised of Randy, four (4) advisors and a tutor coordinator. The staff supports student athletes with the Flight Plan, study hall, time management skills, and tutoring resources. The ASC also requests progress reports from faculty to keep the athletic administration informed and to track student-athlete eligibility during the semester.

Student Athlete Welfare

Dr. Franza reported that this item would be addressed and presented in the revised by-laws.

Other Business

Question about the conference contract expiration in 2017: Will KSU remain in the ASun/Big South after the contract expires or will we look to be in a combined conference for all sports? Vaughn Williams responded that the intent is for KSU Athletics to remain committed to these 2 conferences.

Dr. Franza concluded the meeting by announcing the date for the next meeting, November 4, 2015. He thanked everyone for attending. With no further business, Dr. Franza adjourned the meeting at 1:50pm.