

PRESIDENT'S ATHLETICS OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

Academic Integrity & NCAA Rules Compliance

Institutional Control

Student-Athlete Welfare

Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2016

Present: Janeen Amason, Maria Britt, Jason Brown, Patrick Devine, Katie Egloff, Rick Franza, Jim Herbert, Marina Koether, Scott Larisch, Harry Price (for Rebecca Makus), Dan Niederjohn, Brittney Reed, Steve Ruthsatz, Rick Siegel, Heath Senour, Deborah Smith, Lynn Stallings, Karen Vickers, Patrick Vickers, K.C. White, Humayan Zafar, Christine Zelt, Chi Zhang

Special Guest

Eduardo Rincon (Men's/Women's Tennis)

Introductions

Dr. Franza called the meeting to order at 12:31pm. He welcomed everyone under the new name, President's Athletics Oversight Council, (PAOC). Introductions were made around the room.

Coach's Corner

Dr. Franza introduced Eduardo Rincon, Director of Men's and Women's Tennis programs. Dr. Franza recognized three of the Men's Tennis team players who are in the Coles College of Business Scholars Program, all earned 4.0 GPAs last semester.

Coach Rincon provided a handout highlighting the team histories, rosters, a "Day in the Life of a KSU Tennis Player," and recognizing 2 of the outstanding student-athletes. Tennis teams tend to go under the radar but work as hard as the rest of the student-athletes. The student-athletes average 15-18 credit hours per semester. The schedule includes 3 hours per day for practice x 6 days per week. He also requires an additional 3 times per week conditioning. Coach requires all of his student-athletes to attend 2 hours per week study hall at Student-Athlete Success Services (SASS). His team policy – if anyone gets a C on a quiz or test, they have to schedule a tutor. If GPA falls below a C, the student-athlete is required to take additional study hall hours.

- Dr. White elaborated on the resources available to the student-athletes through SASS
- Question from the floor: Do students see the study hall time as a penalty? Coach Rincon said it has not been an issue with his athletes. Extra study hall hours are only a “penalty” if they fall below the C grade.

The Tennis teams participate in community service hours, mostly in the Fall. The teams have volunteered 103 hours of community service since Fall semester, with goal of 200 hours by the end of the Spring semester. The teams are involved in the Owls Champions Initiative for character development, and Career Services for career orientation.

The Tennis programs are relatively young. The Women’s team was established in 2005, Men’s team in 2008. This is Coach Rincon’s 3rd year with the Men’s team, 1st year with the Women’s team. He has two assistant coaches.

The Men’s team made the A-Sun Conference tournament in 2015 for the first time since the team’s inception. Simon Pritchard was the first KSU tennis player to rank in the top 100 in the Nation. He is a 4.0 student and the A-Sun scholar-athlete of the year for 2015. The Women’s team is in a transition year and Coach Rincon is anticipating a jump in the A-Sun rankings.

Academically, the Tennis teams have the highest GPA recorded by any KSU athletics team: Men’s team = 3.86 GPA; 6 of 10 student-athletes earned 4.0; 43 As, 6 Bs, 1 C. Women’s team = 3.2GPA with a few 4.0 GPA students.

- Question from the floor: Why does the Women’s team only have 7 players and are there any walk-ons? Coach Rincon is recruiting, and has commitments from 3 new student-athletes and is planning to bring on 2 additional players, for a total of 5 additional players on the Women’s team.

This is the first season playing on the new Rec Center courts. Coach Rincon invited everyone to attend home matches. The first home match is against Mercer Wednesday February 24th, Women’s team plays in the morning, Men’s team plays in the afternoon.

- Question from the floor: How has the work load increased for him taking on both teams? Coach Rincon responded that it has been a challenge, but he has great assistant coaches. He needs to be organized and plan ahead. He is happy to have the opportunity to work with both the Men’s and Women’s teams.

- Question from the floor: Similarly to the faculty/student-athlete golf games, could faculty be paired up with a tennis team student-athlete and play some doubles games like faculty does with the golf team? Coach said he could arrange something.
- Question from the floor: What is the coaching philosophy at the college level and is there a shift in the court position to baseline play where players are coming forward more, especially in singles? Coach Rincon explained why there is more pressure at the college level. Versus professional tennis (playing in the US Open) where the athlete plays to win for him/herself, in college the student-athletes play more aggressively because they are playing for their teammates and represent their school.
- Question from the floor: Is there any co-ed play? Coach responded that there is no co-ed play.

Approval of the Minutes

With no objections or further discussion, a motion was made by Lynn Stallings, and seconded by Patrick Vickers to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2015 Board meeting. Minutes were approved unanimously.

State of the Department

Katie Egloff presented the State of the Department on behalf of Vaughn Williams.

- Top Flight Owls night – 200 student-athletes were recognized for earning a 3.0 GPA or above.
 - Men's tennis was highest team GPA with a 3.86
- Overall student-athlete GPA for Fall 2015 = 2.92

Football: signed 18 players; Spring practice starts end of February; Spring football game March 26th

Baseball: home opener against VCU next Friday in a rotating home series

Men's basketball: Final home game Saturday 2/13; current Conference play 3 wins/6 losses

Women's basketball: Final game Monday 2/15; current Conference play 4 wins/4 losses

Men's Track and Field: Bilal Abdullah is currently ranked 3rd in the NCAA and 5th in the world for the heptathlon and 1st in the NCAA and 2nd in the world for high jump

Men's Golf: season opens on February 17th in Hawaii; Coach Odom recently hired a new assistant, Eric Hodgson; the team is currently ranked 60th in two polls; Jeff Carlson, former KSU student-athlete golfer, earned a spot on the Farmer's Insurance Invitational and is the first former KSU student-athlete since Larry Nelson to play in the PGA Tour; former student-athlete Jimmy Beck is on conditional status for the PGA Tour Latin America

Women's Golf: season opens on February 22nd in Florida, the team is currently ranked 97th in one poll and 86th in another poll

Lacrosse: season opened Sunday against Vanderbilt; next home game February 20th

Softball: season opens this Friday February 12th with the KSU Classic Tournament

Men's & Women's Tennis: home opener against Mercer February 24th at the Rec Center

Soccer: hired new Coach Benji Walton from Indiana; new Assistant Coach Chevy Chevalier; home opener August 19th

Volleyball: Coach Schunzel was named the A-Sun Coach of the Year; lost to Lipscomb in the Championship game

NCAA Updates/Compliance Report

NCAA Updates: Heath Senour provided a handout outlining the new 2016 NCAA legislation that was adopted in January 2015; many of the proposals were adopted at the Autonomy level/Power 5 Conference level – KSU can apply these rules/opt into these rules if it decides to do so; non-Autonomy 5 proposals will be reviewed and voted in April.

- 2015-15 Student Athlete Welfare – medical provisions for student-athletes and the medical professionals who work with student-athletes
- 2015-16 student assistant coaching for graduate students within their 5-year period to remain on athletic aid and be on the coaching staff
- 2015-18 with the exception of baseball, agents can engage with and assist families and student-athletes/student-athlete recruits, who want to sign a contract and go professional without affecting their amateurism status
- 2015-20 allows institution payment for required pre-enrollment fees for committed perspective student-athletes; this proposal will potentially further the gap between the Power 5 and the Mid-Majors; KSU Athletics did an analysis based on signing 85 student-athletes to scholarship with a National Letter of Intent at fees ranging from \$350-\$410 per student-athlete, which is approximately an extra \$40K cost to the Athletics Department
- 2015-21 allows institutions to pay for more meals during a student-athlete's official visits; the adoption of this proposal now applies to sports other than football when the student-athlete is on official visit with their family; effective 8/1/16
- 2015-22 allows non-recruited student-athletes to receive financial aid that is less than 1 year
- 2015-24 allows institutions to make arrangements for student-athletes to purchase additional complimentary admission tickets for post-season events
- 2015-32 moving draft withdrawal date to a later date; good for basketball student-athletes because it allows them to gauge and have more time to figure out if they potentially could get drafted in the NBA

- 2015-92 change in term of office for student athlete advisory committee; terms begins 6/1 rather than 7/1 to align with the Division 1 legislative session

Compliance Report: Heath Senour reported that KSU started and concluded National Letter of Intent signing day for soccer and football; next signing date for all other sports in the 2nd Wednesday in April; 55-60 athletes have committed to attend KSU for the 16-17 academic year.

Students First Update

Dan Neiderjohn reported about the Academic Advisory Committee meeting. There was discussion about defining the special admits allowance for each team and how the number is considered in a cohort. The Students First policy did not define how the cohort was determined. If a mid-year perspective student-athlete is accepted, should that count towards the previous year's cohort or the current year's cohort? The Committee suggested matching the APR cohort definition to follow in line with NCAA. The policy revisions will change the language and defines the cohort more clearly, states as: "The APR cohort is defined as the group of student-athletes admitted during the upcoming academic year." Mid-year enrollees will count towards the previous year's allotment, which helps Coaches to make better decisions about mid-year enrollees and how that will impact the team's risk. PAOC will vote on the KSU policy changes.

Meetings with the Coaching staff for each sport were conducted over the past month. Coaches are aware of the process, respect the process, and the Committee had positive interaction with the Coaches and the meetings were productive. The meetings start out with reviewing the team's APR data, are there team risks, and what the risks are. Review the current allotment and current recruits.

- Question from the floor: is there academic oversight on study hall – some student-athletes perceive study hall as a penalty. Additionally, why are students required to attend study hall if there is not a tutor available within their area of disciplinary study (e.g. Chemistry)? Why should a student-athlete attend study hall if there isn't anyone there to help them? Dan responded that there were a number of questions on the end-of-year survey about study hall. He has not seen any comments about it being a penalty to date. Katie Egloff and Dr. Franza supported that study hall for student-athletes is more about structure and accountability to reinforce academic performance.

FAR Update

Dan Neiderjohn provided an update on student-athlete attendance and missed tests/exams. There is now a more collaborative between the student-athlete and faculty

members. End of season surveys are becoming cumbersome, especially with the football team, as it is difficult to find a time to get the whole team together to meet and take the survey. The survey takes approximately 15 minutes. He is considering moving to an anonymous online survey format. A PAOC vote is not needed to move forward with an online survey format. There was discussion and concern about what an online survey response rate would be. Discussion points:

- An online survey would be a good idea given the student-athlete's time parameters
- Concern that the survey responses would plummet
- Involve the Coaches – the Coach should make sure the student-assistant makes time to take the survey; if they do not, there will be a penalty; if Coaches value the survey, the student-athletes will as well
- Email the survey, then follow up with a direct text message
 - 65% success rate email in conjunction with direct text as a follow up.

Academic Update

Dr. Franza presented on behalf of Dr. Kennedy. Dr. Franza passed around Dr. Kennedy's "Student-Athlete Academic Summary 2015" for the Council to review. The Summary data was based 400 student athletes.

- 54% of student-athletes earned a Fall semester 3.0 GPA or higher
- 9/16 teams earned a combined 3.0 GPA or higher for the semester
- 2.92 overall GPA
 - broke a 10-semester trend of a 3.0 GPA
 - Impact from the football team's first semester of field play
 - 3.02 GPA last Fall, 2.58 GPA this past Fall first season of play
- 200 Top Flight Owls – 3.0 GPA or better for Fall semester
- 41 Presidential Scholars - 4.0 GPA
- 57 Dean's List - 3.5 GPA
- Best GPA 3.86 for Men's Tennis
- Most 4.0 per team = Football, Lacrosse, Men's Tennis
- Highest % 4.0 GPA – Men's Tennis (60%)
- Teams that earned 100% 3.0 or higher – Women's Golf (6/6); Men's Tennis (10/10)
- Teams recording highest Fall GPA – Women's Lacrosse (3.28); Softball (3.34); Men's Tennis (3.86)
- Student-athlete academic awards
 - Prentice Stone (Football) – Big South Conference All-Academic Team
 - Kristi Piedimonte (Volleyball) – CoSIDA Academic All-District & Atlantic Sun All-Academic Team
- Question from the floor: How does KSU student-athlete academic performance/GPA compare to other athletes at institutions similar to KSU? Katie

Egloff, Heath Senour and Dr. Franza responded that in their experience, they think KSU student-athletes have a high GPA even though data is not available from comparable institutions

- Question from the floor: What percentage of the Football team has been recruited vs walk-ons? Heath Senour responded that 45 players were recruited and on scholarship. 10 players per year are recruited walk-ons who do not receive scholarships
- Group discussion and questions about walk-ons
 - GPA requirements
 - On-campus housing requirements

New Name Change/ Charge

Dr. Franza referred the Council to the hard copy of the new President's Charge in the meeting packets. The website has been updated: www.athleticscouncil.kennesaw.edu.

Two subcommittees will remain the same:

- Admissions Advisory Committee (Chair, Dan Neiderjohn)
- Academic Support Committee (Chair, Randy Kennedy)
- The Minority Gender Life Skill Programs subcommittee changed to the Student Athlete Welfare Committee. Dan Neiderjohn and Katie Egloff will outline a proposal for the Committee to present at the April 27th meeting
 - The missions of this Committee are to:
 - ensure Title 9 compliance
 - be a liaison to the Owl Champions initiative
 - student-athlete welfare and development

Other Business

Janeen Amason provided a history of the three membership seats representing Wellstar College on the Council: Wellstar College, Health & Physical Education, and Sports Management & Exercise Science. The College requested to reduce its membership over-representation by eliminating the 2 Department Chairs and have 1 representative for Wellstar College as a whole (the same academic representation as the other Colleges on the Council). Dr. Franza opened the floor to discussion and a vote. Jim Herbert made a motion eliminate the 2 Department Chair positions on the Council. Rick Siegel seconded. The motion was voted unanimously.

Dr. Franza announced the next meeting date of April 27th. He reviewed the Council member term expirations in April: Lynn Stallings, Jim Herbert, Rebecca Makus, Janeen Amason. He requested suggestions for their replacements or to know if they would like to continue participating on the Council. Dr. Franza closed the meeting at 1:52pm.