

PRESIDENT'S ATHLETICS OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

Academic Integrity & NCAA Rules

Compliance Institutional Control

Student-Athlete Welfare

**Meeting of February 6, 2019
Prillaman Health Sciences, HS 1001
12:30-1:50 PM**

In attendance: Andy Altizer, Lisa Bauer, Rich Matthews, Charity Bryan, David Buckman, Mindy Debruce, Patrick Devine, Mark Forehand, Mark Geil, Jim Herbert, Randy Kennedy, Daniel Niederjohn, Terence Norman, McCree O'Kelley, Milton Overton, Julie Peterson, Richard Ruhala, Steve Ruthsatz, Lynn Stallings, Cindy Gillam, Hannah Thomason, Patrick Vickers, Pamela Whitten, guest Benji Walton

Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Lynn Stallings, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Coach's Corner

Dr. Stallings introduced Mr. Benji Walton, Women's Soccer Coach.

Coach Walton shared the history of his career, including his education, his beginnings in Sports Management, his volunteer and his college coaching experience. He believes that relationships are important and enjoys mentoring his athletes. He encourages them to control what they can, including their attitude, punctuality, energy, and communications. His student athletes have significantly improved their classroom performance since he took the position in 2016; they are dedicated to their academics and are consistently studying, even while traveling.

The identity for his program encompasses six themes: accountability, passion, resiliency, being driven, making self second and being unified. With regards to recruiting, the program has many Georgia athletes; the talent pool is huge in our state. The team includes several athletes from Florida, one from California, and one from Turkey. In recruiting, he believes it is important to look at character: Is the candidate going to be dedicated to the six standards; and is her character as strong as her soccer ability?

Approval of Minutes

David Buckman moved to approve the minutes of November 7, 2018. Dan Niederjohn seconded. Motion passed.

State of the Department

Milton Overton, Athletic Director

- Announcements
 - The first annual Pink Day will be this Saturday. Activities support cancer awareness and the Agnes Berenato Scholarship to benefit a student battling cancer. Sports is not just about winning; it's about motivation and giving hope. All were invited to attend to help fill up the Convocation Center on Saturday.
 - Milton congratulated the student athletes who put on the banquet that honored student athletes and offered an opportunity for them to show their appreciation for each other.

- Season update
 - Softball player Hannah Thomason provided an update on the women's softball team, including the schedule, new coach, and recent successes.
 - Terrance Norman provided an update on men's baseball, including upcoming games, excitement and new talent on the team.
- Financial
 - Athletics is currently raising funds for a baseball stadium; the new facility would have more seating and premium seating. Mickey Dunn has made a significant contribution.
 - He mentioned a recent budget meeting with KSU financial team that confirmed that athletics is on track financially.
 - Mr. Overton thanked the committee for what they do to support the student athletes. Resources are important, and we can't sign athletes if we don't have the support.
- Mr. Overton shared about the tennis match last Saturday, particularly the enthusiasm of the crowd, chants, team camaraderie, and improvement since last season. He said the excitement of the crowd was infectious. He was so excited and proud to see the support.
- Top Flight Owls is his favorite night. The 253 scholars surrounding the court for the basketball game and the 40+ athletes with a 4.0 average standing in the center of the court was an impressive sight.

Compliance Report and NCAA News

Mindy DeBruce, Assistant Athletic Director of Compliance and Senior Woman Administrator

There are three candidates on campus candidates next week for the Compliance Director, who will officially report to Legal Affairs.

The NCAA has selected to audit KSU athletics, which is a routine procedure. Ms. DeBruce doesn't think we will have any issues and thanked Mr. Kennedy for his work with this audit. She also shared appreciation for the assistance of the Enrollment Services team. We have 64 signees as of today. This time last year we were in the 40s.

FAR Update

Dan Niederjohn, Faculty Athletic Representative

Mr. Niederjohn distributed and reviewed the end of season survey ([Attachment A](#)) for fall sports: football, volleyball, and soccer. The survey is online and takes 15-20 minutes for student-athletes to complete. The data shows significant improvement in several areas and an increased number of comments from students. Of particular note is the increase in the number of student athletes who feel that they can voice their opinions. Mr. Overton stressed the importance of this survey and the pattern of improvement in the results.

Mr. Niederjohn raised a question about student athletes missing class for KSU athletic competitions. Some professors add a policy that students can miss one quiz and that quiz doesn't count in their grade, but they cannot make up the quiz. Student athletes feel penalized because they lose the chance to drop a grade. Any additional feedback in this subject should be directed to Dan.

Oversight Committee Updates

a. *Admissions Advisory Committee (AAC) – Dan Niederjohn*

Mr. Niederjohn and the AAC have been meeting with each coach individually to review APR data (eligibility and retention for our squads) and the academic qualifications of potential student athletes (how much risk can we take on?). Point of information provided by Dr. Stallings: APR data for each coach is made public by the NCAA and is available on the NCAA website.

b. *Academic Support Committee (ASC) – Randy Kennedy, Assistant Athletic Director*

Our student athlete average GPA for fall was 3.0. There were 32 presidential scholars with a 4.0 GPA and 253 Top Flight Owls with a 3.0 or higher. 77 students were on the dean's list, and there were 24 graduates. Women's golf had the highest team gpa with a 3.59. One third of the soccer team had a 4.0.

Starting this month, his unit will be entering data for the NCAA review.

At start of semester, his group partnered with the campus mental health center for a mental health screening. They are working to make this part of the physical when athletes come on board.

A new learning specialist is now on staff helping academically at-risk students.

c. *Student-Athlete Welfare (SAW) – Mindy Debruce*

Ms. Debruce is setting up a meeting for March that will challenge the student group to brainstorm about things on which they can improve and to develop other initiatives. She is looking forward to getting direct information from student athletes.

She thanked the committee for work on the recent banquet and had Ms. Thomason report on the recent ASUN SAC meeting.

Ms. Thomason stressed the focus on mental health, shared some upcoming initiatives and shared the theme, "Break the stigma." April will be Mental Health Awareness Month.

The Student Athlete Advisory Committee is working to provide more opportunities for athletes to voice their opinions and to get all the representatives involved. They will be setting some guidelines and want more students to be invested in the committee.

2) *Other Business*

- Mark Geil reminded the group of the Regional meeting for the International Society for Sports Nutrition March 9.
- In response to a question about the canceled day with local schools, Mr. Overton indicated that this will be an annual event.
- Mr. Overton shared that the first track meet in April will have the involvement of a local elementary school before the event. Watch for more information.

The President's Athletic Advisory Council approved the February 6, 2019 minutes on April 24, 2019

DocuSigned by:

Lisa Bauer

April 25, 2019

~~Lisa Bauer~~

DocuSigned by:

Lynn Stallings

April 25, 2019

~~Lynn Stallings~~

2/4/2019

Student-Athlete End of Season Survey

2015-2017

- Scale
 - 5 Strongly Agree
 - 4 Agree
 - 3 Neutral
 - 2 Disagree
 - 1 Strongly Disagree

