

Kennesaw State University
Athletics Board Committee Meeting
Summary Notes February 11, 2015

Present: Janeen Amason, Jill Brady, Maria Britt, Jason Brown, Katie Egloff, Richard Franza, Cindy Gillam, Matt Griffin, Jim Herbert, Randy Kennedy, Francis Kabongo, Robert Mattox, Maureen McCarthy, Donald McGarey, Daniel Niederjohn, Kandice Porter, Jerome Ratchford, Michael Redd, Brittney Reed, Susan Rouse, Steve Ruthsatz, Heath Senour, Rick Siegel, Deborah Smith, Lynn Stallings, Vaughn Williams

Special Guest: Coach Jeff Kutac

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

From the “Coach’s Corner”, Dr. Franza welcomed Coach Jeff Kutac to share “a day in the life of his program.” Jeff is KSU’s women’s tennis coach with a roster of players from all over the world including Germany, Spain, and South Africa. The ladies tennis team is doing very well in the classroom with a cumulative 3.58 GPA. Several of his players are looking at medical school and graduate business school. They appreciate being competitively driven student athletes and strive to do their best with this opportunity. Coach Kutac is very enthusiastic about the eight new courts currently being built on campus. His biggest challenge is getting people to know who they are. Coach Kutac has seen a real improvement with the strength and conditioning program changes that have been implemented. Also, SASS provides outstanding academic support necessary for some of his players that struggle a bit and is especially integral for his international student athletes. *The Owl’s Championship Initiative* continues to provide excellent leadership and successful life preparation skills for his tennis team. Coach Kutac is extremely proud of his student athletes.

With no discussion, the minutes from November 5, 2014 were approved.

Vaughn Williams gave the State of the Department address. Things are great academically with KSU student athletes achieving over a 3.0 GPA for Fall Semester 2014. An announcement was made in January of a partnership made with Carl Black Automotive dealership whereby all head coaches will be provided courtesy cars. We were the only team in the conference without a courtesy car program. This is a great partnership and alliance within our community. Carl Black has provided a courtesy car for our mascot, Sturgis to travel all over Georgia promoting KSU. This is very impactful and illustrates an understanding with Carl Black on what we are trying to do. Vaughn stated they are already planning the 2015-16 budget and are waiting for the fee structure (post-consolidation) to be clarified. We still have things to do at the stadium, but will remain very diligent in being fiscally responsible. KSU currently has three sports programs that are in the national top 25 (men's track and field, men's golf, baseball). Football enjoyed a great recruiting class with 16 new signees. Ticket sales continue to trend well and show the Board of Regents that football is a viable program for KSU.

Vaughn Williams gave a brief overview of the NCAA Convention and Division I Council. As a reminder, President Papp serves on the Board of Directors for the NCAA. Below them, is the Division I Council that Vaughn belongs to, consisting of 40 members populated with ADs, FARs, Commissioners, and student-athletes. KSU's Brittney Reed is a representative of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC). KSU proudly holds representation on three levels. This representation will enable KSU having a voice of schools our size, help govern and provide structure to Division I athletics and how it will move forward. Some of the issues on the table are cost of attendance and transfer rules. We are there to make sure Division I athletics preserves amateurism, the student athlete experience, championships, and growing young leaders for tomorrow.

Heath Senour gave a compliance report regarding the adopted NCAA Division I Legislative Autonomy Proposals in January. These apply to the big five conferences which includes 65 schools. There are significant questions yet to be answered, and the NCAA has will be issuing a clarification document on how to interpret its application. One proposal is regarding how scholarships and their equivalencies are counted. We currently follow full grant and aid mode. Cost of attendance increases that value of the scholarship given as part of the scholarship to cover cost of attendance and full grant and aid. There is a wide variance in what that cost of attendance gap is from school to school and how the numbers are calculated. There are many questions which will become clearer in the next few years with ripple effects on how it will impact student athletes and be applied institutionally.

Matt Griffin gave an update and provided handouts on the required NCAA financial reporting data. For clarification, the role and primary responsibility of the KSU Athletic Board is academic integrity and institutional control. We cover a waterfront of issues and are less fiduciary, therefore, conducting financial overviews at a much more macro level. The KSU Athletic Association has the primary role of fiduciary responsibility. The NCAA requires two reports, *NCAA Revenues and Expenses* and *Agreed-Upon Procedure Reporting* that is completed by an independent public accounting review and then submitted to the CEO of the institution. Matt provided a snapshot of this 60-page document that includes overall expenses within the athletic department, student aid, recruitment, salaries, game day expenses and revenue. All reports have been submitted to the NCAA.

Proposed changes to the *Student Athlete Conduct Policy* were discussed by Katie Egloff. The Student-Athlete Code of Conduct defines the behavior expected of each student-athlete and the potential consequences that their behavior may have on their status as a student-athlete. The proposed changes to this policy include: process for Internal Drug Testing will remain the same, items such as probable cause, eligibility, banned substances, etc. remains the same, addition of a 3rd level of enforcement, utilizing established University rules and punishment better, inclusion of local and State laws (example: felony and/or misdemeanors). A motion was made to approve these changes and a vote was taken with unanimous board approval.

Randy Kennedy provided the Board with an academic update of worthy student-athlete achievements. The overall student-athlete GPA for fall semester (2014) was 3.10. Over 60% of student-athletes earned a 3.0 or higher. 13/16 teams earned a combined a 3.0 GPA or higher for the semester. Our athletes included 31 Presidential Scholars (4.0 GPAs) and 83 Dean's List participants. KSU athletes are truly setting the tone and creating a culture of academic excellence in the classroom.

A FAR update was provided by Dan Neiderjohn. Dan is visiting with teams and talking about student welfare issues and he continues to talk with professors and open lines of communication. Dan has been asked by the NCAA to administer a *Student Athlete Experience Survey*. This might be considered to potentially take the place of the *End-Of-Season Surveys* that we currently use. Many of the questions are very similar in regard to student wellness issues and services provided. This information could compare our student athlete experience within the conference, which would provide good data.

The Admissions Advisory Committee (AAC) was discussed by Dan Niederjohn. He along with Randy Kennedy and Rick Franza are currently visiting coaches to discuss APR status, special admits process, current prospective student athletes in the admissions queue and some international student questions. These meetings have been extremely productive. Although it is early on in our special admit process, the coaches appreciate this flexibility and are being prudent with decision-making. We are cautiously moving forward as future classes come in. A change has been made in the *Students First Policy* regarding TOEFL scores. TOEFL is a test for non-native speaking students take prior to being admitted. The driver of their classification is the TOEFL score. Translation of their transcript evaluation GPA does not fit our GPA calculations. There have been some changes from BOR and on the KSU TOEFL admission level. Scoring range scales have been changed and we need to be in concert with KSU Admissions regarding these changes. We previously discovered a disconnect and are now tightening the language to our policy to be very intentional that this does not happen in the future. A motion was made to approve the changes to the *Students First Policy* and was unanimously approved.

In conclusion, Heath Senour reminded the Board that the Atlantic-SUN representative visit for Kennesaw State will be April 15-16, 2015. This visit will include a full schedule of interviews, gathering data, and gaining a read on our overall culture of the KSU Athletic Program.

With no further business, Dr. Franza adjourned the meeting.