

Kennesaw State University
Athletics Board Meeting
Summary Notes November 4, 2015

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

Special Guest: Coach Keith Schunzel (Women's Volleyball)

Introductions

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

Coach's Corner

Coach Schunzel provided a handout of "Core Values of Kennesaw State Volleyball." When he started as Coach in January 2013, he developed a core set of resources, values, and goals for the program to assist from a recruiting standpoint and keep current players moving forward in the right direction. Coach gives this handout to parents of recruits, as well as each team member every year so they know what the program wants to accomplish. The Core Values include:

- **Character and Attitude:** drives the culture, attitude, passion, and citizenship of the team and explains what he is looking for in a student-athlete.
- **Life Development:** develop the students as leaders and servants.
- **Academics:** in 2013 the team GPA was 2.5. Spring 2016 semester was a 3.6.
- **Resources:** KSU has a strong direction for its student-athletes through a variety of character development and leadership programs.
- **Conference Championship:** he has recruited competitive people to be in the program.

He is building the team organically for the long term. The team has ten (10) Freshmen and Sophomores this year.

Dr. Franza opened the floor for questions:

1. Is recruiting primarily locally/state/regionally? Coach Schunzel said the team recruiting vision is about half and half. 7-8 from Georgia, 8-9 outside of Georgia.
2. How is the season going? In 2013, Coach Schunzel worked on changing the team culture and the team was at .500. The Seniors graduated and he brought in Freshmen who were consistent, but not winning as many games. In 2014 the team was 10 and 19 and putting a better product on the floor. 2015 the team is 14 and 7. Swept the state of Georgia beating Georgia Southern, Georgia State, Mercer, Savannah State, Georgia Tech, and Lipscomb. The team is currently in 3rd place in Atlantic Sun.
3. What is the volleyball team doing to achieve such a high GPA and how can the faculty assist other teams in achieving higher GPAs? Coach Schunzel said it starts with recruiting and finding the right students who care about what they are doing, who are driven, and who want to be successful in the business community. There is not a short-term fix. The Coaching staff sets priorities and stays consistent.
4. What kind of GPA do you look for in a recruit? Coach Schunzel said there is not a set number. He is mostly looking for the school from which they come, the classes they are taking, test scores, and personal references regarding the recruit's academics. It is important to vet the recruit with due diligence.

Approval of Minutes

With no objections or further discussion, a motion was made by Lynn Stallings and seconded by Scott Larisch to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2015 Board meeting. Minutes were approved unanimously.

State of the Department

Volleyball: Vaughn Williams gave an update on the Griffin's Game event during the October 30th volleyball game. \$7,000 in donations were raised during the event. Proceeds were gifted to two local families who have family members with cancer.

Soccer: The Soccer team finished the season in 4th place. The Tennis teams had a productive Fall season.

Golf: Golf season starts in February 2016.

Cross Country: Men's Cross Country placed 5th, Women's Cross Country placed 6th for the season. Athletes finished 2nd on the Women's side and 13th on the Men's side.

Basketball: Men's and Women's Basketball have exhibition games on Sunday November 9th, both games are free admission.

Football: 6-2 season to date, 2-1 in Conference play. The Football team has exceeded expectations for its first year. Having a winning season enables KSU to recruit. Eligible to go to playoffs starting this year. Talented athletes and coaches. Last home game is Saturday November 8th – sold-out game; Senior day and a canned food drive collection. The impact on the budget post-football season will be reviewed.

Owls Champions Initiative and the Flight Plan: Provide a robust 4-year career path for student athletes. Student athletes are engaging in a different way. Academics are improving. Progress reports are improving.

Dr. Franza opened the floor for questions:

1. What is Vaughn’s “wish list” for the University Master Plan Survey?
Vaughn would like to redefine and prioritize student athlete welfare and leadership/character development so student athletes can reach their potential. He would like for KSU to be the best mid-major in the Southeast. He would like to create a robust environment for the student athletes to reach their potential.
2. What are the facility needs? Compartmentalize the staff so the student athletes’ paths are less time consuming. Build some kind of central hub so academic buildings are closer to the locker rooms and practice facilities so there is less walking time and more study time.
3. Will any programs be hosted at the athletic facilities at the Marietta Campus? Meetings are in progress to discuss the use of these facilities for intramural sports. The Women’s Soccer home game on September 20th was hosted at the Marietta Campus.

NCAA Developments & Compliance

NCAA Developments: Vaughn Williams gave the Division 1 update. The landscape of Division 1 is changing. Money is driving college football (bowl games, etc.). Division 1 is trying to keep a level playing field with transfers, cost of attendance, and financial aid.

Compliance: Heath Senour provided handouts for Rules Education Sessions, Self Reports, and Waivers. November 11-18th is National Letter of Intent for signing day for Fall 2016. In previous years there have been an average of 25-30 athlete applicants. That has increased to 50 athletes this year. Heath reviewed the Violation Levels 1-4:

Level 4 = Technical, paperwork

Level 3 = No recruiting advantage or competitive advantage (considered a secondary violation)

Level 2 = Major infraction

Level 1 = Major infraction

KSU is higher than most Universities/Colleges in its conference with Level 3 violations because of self-reports and the culture, philosophy, and monitoring systems KSU Athletics has in place.

Dr. Franza opened the floor for questions:

1. Question about the compliance culture was addressed by Vaughn Williams. The level of compliance at KSU is not a bad thing. The Athletics Department is responsible for protecting the student athletes and their families. Prior to 2011, there were zero violations. Now a culture has been cultivated where there is a responsibility surround compliance. Heath Senour added that the Coaching staff has been integral to compliance.
2. Request to review the step-by-step compliance process.
 - a. Find out about the violation
 - b. Meet with Coach to discuss the information received about the violation
 - c. Documentation/confirm the violation
 - d. Develop a self-report on the NCAA website with sanctions or self-imposed penalties
 - e. Rules Education sessions and/or materials provided
 - f. NFA (No Further NCAA Actions)
3. Any recurring violation patterns? Heath Senour provided information about the 4-year violation charts. Most of KSU's recurring violations are By-Law 13 (recruiting) and By-Lay 16 (extra benefits).

Scheduled Reports: GSR & APR Report

Dr. Kennedy provided handouts of the 2008-2009 Graduation Success Rates and the 2014-2015 Academics Progress Rate Institutional Report. The GSR does not include transfers, only athletes entering as Freshmen. It is unknown how KSU compares nationally and within the Conference because the data was just released today (the morning of November 4, 2015). Because it is from 2008-2009, the date is not an accurate depiction of where KSU student athletes are in 2015. Dr. Kennedy briefly reviewed the APR Report. KSU is held accountable for the student athletes maintaining a 930 or above to remain without penalty.

FAR/ACC Update and Special Admits Process

Dan Niederjohn detailed the Special Admits Process for student athletes. Risk applies to the student athlete whom may not meet all of the admissions requirements. The factors associated with risks for the team are: APR, current GPA, and how many special admits/high risk student athletes are currently on the team. Each team has a risk allowance: as the risk increases, the allotment of team special admits decreases. The allotment ranges from 0-5 students based on the squad size. The teams receive penalties, such as reduced practice time, increased study hours, financial aid reductions, coach penalties, a ban on post-season competition, and/or zero allotments if the team APR drops below 930. Risk assessments and allocations are the same for each team. The Special Admits process helps Coaches to recruit responsibly.

Types of Admits:

Regular Admit = no review needed, no concern

Type 1 = 1 minor deficiency

Type 2 = 2 deficiencies (test scores that are above Board of Regents minimum but might not meet KSU minimums)

Type 3 = does not meet Board of Regents minimums. Student athlete has to be presented to the Academics Committee for approval. The student athlete is vetted individually and monitored. The Academic Committee then makes a recommendation to the University Academic Appeals Committee for final decision.

2.55 Rule = Type 2 and 3 can be admitted if their KSU High School GPA is 2.55 or higher.

KSU has no data on T1 and T2 success rates because the Special Admits system has only been in place for 18 months.

More information about the Special Admits process can be found in the “Students First Policies” at

http://athleticsboard.kennesaw.edu/docs/policiesdates/students_first_policy_march2014.pdf

Discussion of Board Charge, Name Change, and Other Issues

Board Charge

Dr. Franza provided handouts of the current President’s Charge and a revised draft for Board review. The draft is almost exclusively focused on academics and will replace the original charge from 2008. Dr. Franza presented the concern of the Executive Committee regarding the revisions to the charge – the revision is too limiting with “academic welfare” and should the Board have broader oversight than just “student-athlete academic welfare?”

Dr. Franza opened the floor for discussion:

1. Strike “academic.” The Board should not be limited if it does not have to be. The charge would create a greater partnership if the wording were not so limiting.
2. The charge needs to be aligned with the responsibilities of the FAR. He prefers the broader definition of student athlete welfare so the Board has the opportunity to protect the student physically and academically.
3. The Board needs to clarify on what it does under alignment with the FAR. The time the Board spends should be focused on academics. The Board should have a specific oversight rather than a broad oversight. Keep focus on academic pursuits, so keep the charge as written with “academics.”
4. The updated Charge goes hand-in-hand with the new Board name, so the Charge should be decided first before the new Board name is decided.

Dr. Franza will bring these recommendations to Dr. Papp. Once Dr. Papp reviews, Dr. Franza will conduct an online vote of the Board.

Name Change

Dr. Franza provided a handout of the name change options as presented by the Executive Committee. He also gave an overview of the Executive Committee's discussion and rationale behind the name change options that are being presented.

Dr. Franza opened the floor for discussion:

1. The Board name is a definition issue. The President's Charge should be clarified before the name can be decided.
2. Is this a University Board or the President's Board? Why does the Board exist?
3. The original structure was for the Athletic Director to have faculty involved and aware.
4. NCAA and Institutional Control gave the President accountability over athletics, which is why the Board became the President's Board and the Charge is named as it is.

Other Business

No other business.

Dr. Franza concluded the meeting by announcing the date for the next meeting, February 10, 2016. He thanked everyone for attending. With no further business, Dr. Franza adjourned the meeting at 2:06pm.