

**PROVOST'S ATHLETICS OVERSIGHT COUNCIL**

**Academic Integrity & NCAA Rules  
Compliance Institutional Control  
Student-Athlete Welfare**

**PAOC Meeting of February 3, 2021**

**Virtual Meeting on Teams**

**12:30-1:30PM**

**In attendance:** Aaron Howell, Amani Johnson, Austin Brown, Bret Cowley, Daniel Niederjohn, Gloria Laureano, Jessica Watkins, Kathy Schwaig, Lisa Bauer, Mark Forehand, Mark Geil, Mark Warner, Milton Overton, Mindy DeBruce, Patrick Devine, Patrick Vickers, Randy Kennedy, Richard Ruhala, Keir Singleton, Tariq Bradford, Wes Rhea, Jones Tamica

**Welcome, and Introductions:** Dan Niederjohn called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. He welcomed the group and introduced the student athletes in attendance as well as guest, Keir Singleton.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the September 2, 2020 and November 4, 2020 PAOC meetings were approved.

**Student-Athlete Welfare and SAAC Update:** Mindy DeBruce shared updates from SAAC and their goal to do all they can for student athletes. Constantly evolving protocols, guidelines, and schedules can create frustration and confusion for our athletes, so SAAC remains flexible and varies meeting times to allow access to as many as possible. Ms. Johnson provided additional SAAC news and expressed the importance of this group and continued communications to our athletes.

The KSU Counseling Center now provides a 24/7 mental health online support forum; athletes in difficult situations have immediate access to support. In addition to meeting with individuals and teams, our contracted sports psychologist, Dr. Lindsay, is sending monthly updates and tips to athletes about services offered and ways to connect to her online. Meal Supplement Stations are all back up and running.

**Compliance Report and NCAA News** – Bret Cowley, Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance shared that NCAA continues to provide flexibility during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially when it comes to student-athlete health and safety. NCAA has provided a “COVID-19” Waiver for extension of eligibility so that student-athletes can have four meaningful participation opportunities. The

temporary dead period for recruiting will last through 04/15/21 and a possible extension is being discussed.

With the Alston Case to be heard by the Supreme Court in late March and multiple states with legislative proposals for Name, Image, Likeness (NIL), the NCAA tabled legislation that was up for a vote in January. NCAA continues to evaluate the legal and state/federal legislative landscape surrounding NIL and plans to take action on NCAA legislation soon. KSU continues to prepare and is speaking with third party vendors that will help us with educating and monitoring all aspects of NIL. This will help KSU Administration put our student-athletes in the best possible position to correctly profit from of their NIL. Discussion followed on video games and NIL.

**State of the Department** – Milton Overton, Director of Athletics, thanked everyone for their continued support and hard work. He expressed appreciation to the student athletes for their sacrifices in order to continue in competition. Athletics is performing nearly 300 covid tests per week; athletes must have 2 negative tests to compete, making for a lot of changes to schedule and routine.

Mr. Overton introduced the new COO for Athletics, Tamica Jones. With 20 plus years in college athletics, as well as personal participation and coaching, Tamica comes with a breadth of experience. She will assist in managing the department on a day-to-day basis. Ms. Jones shared that she is committed to student athletes and development; she is grateful and honored to be a part of Milton's team.

Mr. Overton provided a brief update on upcoming sports and on academics. We had twenty athletes graduate in fall. The overall GPA for our teams was 3.2 and 73% of athletes earned 3.0 or higher. 65 athletes earned a 4.0.

Discussion followed about student engagement and ways to market sports activities to the student body like pushing the mobile app and holding pep rallies.

**Student-Athlete Academic Update:** Randy Kennedy expressed how pleased he is with the academic success of our athletes. We had 321 Top Flite Owls (3.0 or higher). 100% of the Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Softball, Women's Tennis and Volleyball teams had a 3.0 GPA or higher. He commended Coach Amir and the Men's Basketball for an incredible improvement in academics.

Dr. Kennedy shared staffing updates and information on travel notifications. Likely, travel notifications will come from a new software next year.

Thankfully, no one was dropped for non-payment for classes. Many changes in

Admissions are filtering down to the process for special admits and his team is looking now at students coming in for summer and/or fall. Registration is approaching quickly so student athletes are being encouraged to see their advisor now. COVID changes are creating particular challenges for some students completing and/or adding degrees or programs. Planning now is extremely important.

**FAR and Admission Advisory Committee Update** – Dan Niederjohn, reiterated that one of goals of this group is to communicate the policies for student athletes. Attendance is a very important issue; if there are competitions, student athletes need to have the opportunity to make up exams, etc. We need to continue to be as flexible as possible and encourage cooperation from faculty.

Following a question regarding 5<sup>th</sup> year and 6<sup>th</sup> year athletes, discussion ensued on how scholarships, management of rosters, and the budget are affected.

The Admissions Advisory Committee will be meeting with coaches about special admits this spring. If any faculty members who serve on PAOC wish to participate on this committee, let Dr. Niederjohn know.

**Other Business**

Mr. Overton recognized Dan Niederjohn, Patrick Devine, Aaron Howell, and Patrick and Karen Vickers as today’s “Unsung Heroes.”

The next PAOC meeting is April 21, 2021.

The Provost’s Athletic Advisory Council approved the February 2, 2021 minutes on April 21, 2021.

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*Lisa Bauer* April 21, 2021  
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*Dan Niederjohn* April 21, 2021  
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**Dr. Dan Niederjohn, Chair**