

**PROVOST'S ATHLETICS OVERSIGHT COUNCIL**

**Academic Integrity & NCAA Rules**

**Compliance Institutional Control**

**Student-Athlete Welfare**

**PAOC Meeting of April 21, 2021**

**Virtual Meeting on Teams**

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

**In attendance:** Lisa Bauer, Austin Brown, Bret Cowley, Mindy DeBruce, Patrick Devine, Mark Forehand, Mark Geil, Aaron Howell, Randy Kennedy, Gloria Laureano, Daniel Niederjohn, Milton Overton, Wes Rhea, Tamica Jones, Patrick Vickers, Mark Warner

**Welcome, and Introductions:** Dan Niederjohn called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the February 3, 2021 meeting were approved as distributed.

**Student-Athlete Welfare and SAAC Update:** Mindy DeBruce, Senior Woman Administrator, shared that the Sports Park has assisted SAAC for the Student Athletes Superlative banquet. The event will be at an outdoor location allowing for social distancing for approximately 400 attendees.

SAAC offered a virtual mental health panel; based on what was learned, they are scheduling coach/staff training in late May or early June. The intent is to equip coaches and administrators with a better understanding of what student athletes have been going through, as well as make sure that they are being directed to appropriate campus resources.

She thanked Mr. Overton, Ms. Jones, and the sponsorship team for a new partnership with Ingalls providing an additional \$11,000 in fueling money for meal supplements.

Ms. DeBruce announced that Amani Johnson was sworn in as KSU Student Government president. Two years in a row the SGA President was a student athlete.

**State of the Department:** Milton Overton thanked everyone for their service. What PAOC does is extraordinary and very much appreciated. Great things are going on and he is so proud of our student athletes. In his 28 years, he never seen back-to-back student athletes serving as student government presidents and added his thanks to Tariq and Amani.

Mr. Overton provided an update on team sports and efforts to improve the health and well-being of our student athletes. These efforts include a future Sports Data Analytics Research Lab and a sleep study to determine impact of sleep on student athletes. This research lab could also become a source of revenue.

He credited our student athletes and training staff for their dedication and patience with our

training facilities. We've been operating our training room out of trailer for the last 8 years and we must do better. Our training facilities need improvement and Athletics is looking at some opportunities for partnerships to get better facilities. A Sports Performance Facility to enhance the services for our student athletes is in our future.

Mr. Overton shared his pride in athletics department staff and recognized that we had five ASUN championships this year during Covid.

Tamica Jones added her thanks to the PAOC team and expressed gratitude for meeting many in person. She wants to involve PAOC in strategic planning and will have more information soon. The entire athletic team is working to get back to some normalcy this fall. Head athletic trainer, Mike Young, is working with KSU on vaccinations for our staff.

**Compliance Report and NCAA News:** Bret Cowley, Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance, shared that NCAA legislation has now passed that permits student athletes to transfer one time in their academic career and be immediately eligible at the next institution so long as they leave the previous institution as eligible. He provided additional information regarding APR rates and that future guidance is forthcoming, particularly with regard to dates/deadlines. KSU will also begin tracking transfers.

There is currently a bill on Governor Kemp's desk to be signed regarding Name, Image and Likeness (NIL). This State of Georgia Legislation opens it up to allow students to profit off their NIL. Institutions would provide 5 hours of education (before first and third years of school) to incoming athletes to include time management and financial management. We will continue watching for guidance from the NCAA and identify vendors to assist us with preparing our student athletes.

Mr. Overton commented that we need to include faculty as we define our pathway and find vendors for solutions. We are building branding, time management and financial education into this package so we need to use our own faculty resources when we can. Milton thanked Aaron Howell for the support in renovation of our track. It will be more of a championship track and allow us to host meets again next year.

**Student-Athlete Academic Update:** Randy Kennedy reported that the Program Coordinator position has been filled. He shared Graduation Success rate data and that our graduation success rate continues to increase each year.

He recognized graduating student athletes and shared that there are approximately 200 between last spring and this year. There will not be a graduation luncheon as in the past, but the students can come by and pick up their stoles. They hope to have an event outside in the spring where the graduates can gather to celebrate, enjoy treats and take advantage of photo opportunities. Many are graduating with ASUN honors (3.5 GPA or higher).

Dr. Kennedy shared some challenges from this past semester with keeping track of students

when they are all competing and traveling. This may have some effect on gpa, as there has been some stress for our athletes. Hopefully, we will still have a strong finish.

Certification reviews will begin next month, as well as planning for summer school and what it might cost. Reviews for incoming students are also beginning. Evaluations of software solutions are forthcoming.

**FAR and Admission Advisory Committee Update** – Dan Niederjohn, Faculty Athletics Representative and Associate Professor of Psychology, recently met with Ms. DeBruce and Mr. Cowley regarding the end of season survey and exit interview process. The process continues to go smoothly and is not changing much. They are looking at ways to increase the participation rate. The surveys will go out soon and he will report results in early fall.

Admissions Advisory met this spring. There are fewer than normal prospective special admits and this may have to do with criteria changes.

### Other Business

Meeting Dates for 2021-2022 (Return to face-to-face meetings in HS1001)

September 1, 2021

February 2, 2022

November 3, 2021

April 27, 2022

Dr. Niederjohn thanked Rita Bailey, Patrick Devine, Austin Brown, Mark Forehand, and Richard Ruhala for their service to PAOC. Their terms expire this spring. There are two openings on the committee for next fall. If you know of someone interested, let him know. Milton added his thanks to those with expiring terms.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

The Provost's Athletic Advisory Council approved the April 21, 2021 minutes on September 1, 2021.

DocuSigned by:

*Lisa Bauer*

October 8, 2021

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**Lisa Bauer**

DocuSigned by:

*Dan Niederjohn*

October 9, 2021

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**Dr. Dan Niederjohn, Chair**