

University of North Alabama

Athletics Committee Minutes

April 11, 2025

Pierce Hospitality Suite at 2:00 PM

Members Present: M. Looser, D. Williams, KC White, C. Wise (Proxy Title IX), R. Hoffman, V. Hamilton, S. Lyons, L. Killen, C. Dalrymple, L. Holder, J. Lyde, A. Milwee, S. Infanger, C. Raney, J. Ray, J. Looney

PhD Student Guests: J. Lacruz, C. Dillard, G. Melgar Roca,

1. Approval of Agenda

a. Discussion:

The meeting was called to order and the agenda was confirmed as shared electronically in advance through the calendar invite. No revisions or additions were proposed during the meeting.

- b. **Action:** A motion to approve the agenda was made by J. Lyde and seconded by S. Infanger. The agenda was approved unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes (January 2025)

- a. **Discussion:** The minutes from the January 2025 meeting had been distributed via email and were approved virtually prior to the meeting. These minutes have been submitted for official record.

- b. **Action:** No further action was necessary.

3. Minority Opportunity Sub-Committee Report

- a. **Discussion:** The committee heard a report on the mentoring program from C. Raney, which continues to perform well with 36 active student-athlete participants. Notable spring activities included a collaboration with Esports, a Bingo Night sponsored by Dean Ellis, and a special mentoring event with the women's basketball team. The upcoming Elite Speaker Series, scheduled for April 22 and featuring Evan Oglesby, is expected to be a strong finale to the program year. No further comments were presented from this sub-committee.

- b. **Action:** C. Raney and her team will distribute a year-end survey to participants to gather feedback on the program and mentor pairings.

4. Gender Equity Sub-Committee Report

- a. **Discussion:** No report was received from the Gender Equity Sub-Committee. Committee members present had not received any updates.

- b. **Action:** The chair will continue to follow up with S. Kennemer for an update before the next meeting.

5. Compliance Report

- a. **Discussion:** The committee engaged in a detailed discussion about ongoing issues related to the NCAA transfer portal, NIL (Name, Image, Likeness), and scholarship appeals. A real case involving a football athlete was presented as a case study to highlight the challenges faced by compliance and athletic staff.

The discussion emphasized the rising number of student-athletes entering the transfer portal—both nationally and at UNA—and how misinformation, agent involvement, and misunderstandings about scholarship agreements are leading to difficult situations for both students and the university. Committee members expressed concern about a recent scholarship appeal decision and the lack of broader understanding about the commitments and limitations involved in athletic aid.

- b. **Action:** It was recommended that the athletics department offer educational sessions for faculty, staff, and members of the appeals committee to help clarify how athletic scholarships function, the transfer process, and implications for institutional aid and planning.

6. **Athletic Director Report**

- a. **Discussion:** The Athletic Director reported on a recent advocacy trip to Washington, D.C., where UNA leadership met with lawmakers to discuss how national policy shifts (including the transfer portal, NIL, and the House settlement) are impacting smaller D1 institutions. The committee was also briefed on UNA's recent athletic accomplishments, including a men's basketball regular season title, record attendance, conference championships in tennis, and individual honors in cross country. Updates were provided on construction progress at the baseball facility, which has faced delays due to weather but is expected to host a game soon pending inspection.
- b. **Action:** The athletics department will continue to monitor outcomes of the House settlement hearing and review potential implications for roster limits and scholarship distribution. At this time, there is no need for further action.

7. **Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) Report**

- a. **Discussion:** The FAR reported no major issues with student-athlete academics or professor conflicts. A Faculty Senate update is planned for May, as the originally scheduled report in April did not occur due to an agenda oversight. Dr. Ray (FAR) emphasized continued positive student-athlete behavior, sportsmanship, and academic performance.
- b. **Action:** The FAR will provide a formal update to the Faculty Senate at the next scheduled opportunity in May.

8. **Old Business**

- a. **Discussion:** At the last meeting, the committee completed the SGEC survey link and submitted updates as appropriate.
- b. **Action:** The committee chair will need to confirm that the website reflects the updated charge during the next academic year.

9. **New Business**

- a. **Discussion:** (Announcement item)The committee was reminded of the upcoming Spring Graduation Reception for student-athletes, to be held in the Pierce Hospitality Suite. The event will recognize approximately 39–40 graduates and their families.
- b. **Action:** Committee members were encouraged to attend and support graduating student-athletes at the reception.

10. Adjournment

Action: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by S. Lyons and seconded by KC White. The meeting adjourned at 2:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Dr Melanie B. Looser

April 24, 2025

Athletic Committee Chair

2024-2025