**ANNUAL REPORT**

*ATHLETIC COMMITTEE*

University of North Alabama

Florence, Alabama

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Cynthia Burkhead, Chair

Submitted to:

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Dr. William G. Cale, President

University of North Alabama Date Received

I. Executive Summary

During the 2009-2010 academic year, the Athletic Committee at the University of North Alabama continued to work on issues regarding gender and diversity within the Athletic Department as well as budget concerns, reviewing areas of compliance weakness, and discussing preparations for the NCAA Institutional Self Study, due June 2011. The committee continued to suffer from frequent lack of quorum, which has been a problem for many years.

II. The Committee’s Charge

1. Ensure the proper role of athletics within the overall mission of the university

2. Ensure the integrity of the athletics program with regard to NCAA, Gulf South Conference, state and federal law compliance, gender equity, and support for the principles presented by the Knight Foundation’s Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics

3. Review and monitor (as necessary, assist in developing) all compliance procedures and recommend institutional procedural changes based upon changes in NCAA rules.

4. Assign and document responsibilities for compliance tasks

5. Work to maintain the proper perspective of athletic competition within the university life of the student-athlete

6. Monitor the academic performance and progress made by student-athletes

7. Oversee all programs designed to ensure the academic success, personal development and personal welfare of student-athletes

8. Handle all proposals affecting University policy according to section C.2 “Shared Governance Procedure for Policy Change Recommendations”

III. The Committee met on the following dates:

1 October 2009, 19 November 2009, 18 February 2010, 8 April 2010

IV. What were the Committee’s actions and accomplishments this year releative to each of the items of the charge?

1. No actions or accomplishments.
   1. The committee discussed potential compliance conflicts with the relationship between the Sportsman’s Club and institutional controls, specifically the housing of Sportsman’s Club funds. The Athletic Committee’s recommendation was that all funds be housed with the UNA Foundation. This was an information recommendation as the SACS committee was the conducting the official review.
   2. The committee reactivated its Minority Opportunities and Gender Opportunities subcommittees to continue to work toward equity in these areas within the Athletic Department. A key issue the Athletic Department was already looking into is the pregnancy rule for student athletes that is in violation of federal law. The Department was working with Tammy Irons to get another policy in place and no action from the committee was necessary.
   3. A key action taken by the committee in this area was the organizing of an NCAA Diversity Training workshop, which was held on April 15, 2010. Athletic Committee members, Coaches and Athletic Department staff, as well as other university faculty and staff members attending this four hour training conducted by NCAA representatives. In addition to the generally positive effects of the training, it serves as an indicator to the NCAA that UNA takes seriously its commitment to improve in areas of gender and minority equity.
2. The Committee began discussions of the Institutional Self Study. As neither the current Athletic Director or Associate Director and Senior Woman Administratorwere at UNA for the precious Self Study, the committee helped the Department understand how the process, including the Committee’s participation, had been carried out in the past, and a general plan for the Committee’s participation was determined.
3. See number 3
4. No action taken
5. Discussions about the “Academic Athletics Mentor Program” and its support of the “Grades First” program constitute the Committee’s monitoring of “academic performance and progress made by student-athletes.”
6. No action was taken by the Committee, but the Athletic Department kept the group informed for Department efforts towards improving the university experience for UNA Athletes, including academic and health areas, and welcomed the Committee’s input on Department policies.
7. No formal proposals came out of committee during the 2009-2010 academic year; however, discussion began about a proposal to increase the faculty membership on the committee to help insure that there are quorums at meetings.

V. What were the Committee’s formal recommendations this year?

The Committee had no formal recommendations this year.

VI. What does the Committee plan to accomplish?

A. In the coming year?

The Committee will put forward a recommendation to increase faculty membership on the Committee so it can more efficiently meet its charge

The Committee will assist the Athletic Department in the completion of the Institutional Self Study in the 2010-2011 academic year.

B. In future years?

The Committee will continue to assist the Athletic Department in working toward Gender and Minority equity in order to insure continued progress in these areas as required by the NCAA.

VII. What are the Committee’s weaknesses?

The principal weakness is a frequent inability to take action because of lack of quorum. As very many of its members are UNA administrators who are serve on so many other important committees that they must frequently miss Athletic Committee meetings, the Committee believes that the addition of faculty members will help to rectify the quorum issue.