

Athletics Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 9, 2022

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Athletics Committee was called to order at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, March 9, 2022. The meeting was held in the Pierce Hospitality Suite.

II. Roll Call

Present: Dr. Kimberly Greenway, Ms. Debbie Williams, Mr. Doug McClain, Ms. Janae Lyde, Ms. Kayleigh Baker, Mr. Todd Vardaman, Dr. Justin Joseph, Ms. Christa Raney, Dr. Josh Looney, Dr. Jeffrey Ray, Mr. Evan Thornton, Ms. Corrie Dalrymple, Mr. Mitch Powell, Ms. Sherry Kennemer

Absent: Dr. Lamont Maddox, Ms. Madison Worden, Mr. Ronnie Myers, Ms. Shauna James, Dr. Lisa Clayton

III. Approval of minutes from the Athletics Committee meeting on November 17, 2021

Dr. Justin Joseph asked the committee to review the minutes from the meeting on Wednesday, November 17, 2021. Ms. Christa Raney made the motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Kayleigh Baker seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as read.

IV. Minority Opportunity Workgroup Report

Ms. Janae Lyde, chair of the Minority Opportunity Workgroup, stated that a Life skills event for student-athletes is scheduled for April 13, 2022 and the guest speaker for the event is Mr. Fred Wilkins, former football student-athlete. The topic for the event is overcoming diversity.

Diversity Education Week is scheduled the week of April 4, 2022. Dr. Andrea Hunt will speak with UNA Athletics staff regarding microaggressions and unconscious biases.

Ms. Christa Raney discussed the mentoring program. Ms. Anna Milwee, Mr. Pete Key, Ms. Christa Raney, and Ms. Janae Lyde have met to discuss the mentoring program and soliciting mentees. A Qualtrics survey will be given to minority student-athletes and will be used to help pair student-athletes and mentors. Mentors can be faculty, staff, alumni and community members.

The mentoring program will expand to non self identifying minority student-athletes. Mr. Doug McClain suggested changing the question, "are you interested in be a mentee in the mentee program" to the end of the questionnaire.

This work group will work to define what definition of "minority" is being used to service student-athletes.

V. Gender Equity Committee Report

The Gender Equity Workgroup has not met for the spring 2022 but will schedule a date to meet.

VI. Faculty Athletic Representative Report

Dr. Jeffrey Ray stated that he had a meeting with the Faculty Senate and asked for feedback from the Athletics Committee for the meeting:

- Update on the Division I Transition
- Student-Athlete academic accomplishments
- Faculty to update grades in a timely fashion in Canvas
- Adhere to Faculty Handbook. Allow student-athletes who miss class due to athletic events to make-up tests
- Student-athletes to communicate with faculty when missing class due to games
- Discussed travel letters to give to Faculty

VII. Compliance Report

Mr. Todd Vardaman stated that the NCAA Legislation will be discussed in April.

The Athletics Committee discussed the NCAA Peer-Review Team Visit on March 21-23, 2022.

- The Athletics Committee will meet with the peer review team on March 22, 2022 at 3:00pm in room 244 in Harrison Hall.
- The exact questions that the peer review team will ask is unknown, but questions such as “what role did you participate in the transition” and “do we do what we say we do” could be one of the questions asked.

VIII. Athletic Directors Report

Dr. Josh Looney updated the committee on the following:

- The UNA softball team will play Mississippi State today, March 9, 2022. The record for UNA softball is 18-3 in non-conference. The UNA Softball team’s RPI is ranked 52 in the country.
- UNA Athletics hired a new head volleyball coach, Tristan Johnsons and two assistant coaches, Caitlin Bullock and Abby Irvine.
- The head men’s golf coach, Cullen Carstens, resigned in December 2021. The head men’s golf coach search will begin in May 2022. Neil Self, is serving in both roles as Director of Golf for men’s golf and women’s golf.
- The football staff was restructured in December. The new associate head coach and assistant coaches for football are Ryan Held, Caleb Carbine, Trey Porter, and Khyle Jackson.
- At the end of December 2021, the Charles Anderson family, gave a one million dollar gift to women’s athletics.
- The Lion Athletic Club gave a record \$225,000 to UNA Athletics. The check was presented to UNA Athletics in February 2022 at a basketball game.

- Two projects for UNA Athletics are underway. The football locker room is being renovated and the architect is in the final stages for the indoor hitting facility for softball. The indoor hitting facility for softball should be completed by January 2023.
- The NCAA voted in favor of reconstructing the constitution.

IX. Meeting Adjourned

Ms. Kayleigh Baker made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Janae Lyde seconded the motion.