

University of North Alabama
Athletics Committee Minutes
November 9, 2023 at 1:00 PM
Pierce Hospitality Suite

In attendance: Dr. Lisa Clayton, Dr. Melanie Looser, Dr. Janae Lyde, Ms. Christa Raney, Dr. Jeff Ray, Dr. Marie Taylor, Mr. Evan Thornton, Ms. Anna Milwee, Dr. Scott Infanger, Ms. Minnette Ellis, Dr. KC White, Ms. Debbie Williams, Dr. Josh Looney

Not in attendance: Mr. Jacob Davis, Mr. Will Driver, Mr. EJ Powell, Ms. Corrie Dalrymple, Ms. Kate Hanbery, Ms. Laurie Holder

1. Approval of Minutes and Agenda

The minutes from Sep. 8, 2023 were approved by unanimous vote without modification.

2. Student-Athlete Perspectives

Three student-athletes (softball, tennis and cross-country) voluntarily attended and shared their experiences at UNA. One shared that they attended a different university and transferred here not due to playing time, but for personal reasons. They noticed in their recruiting visit, UNA felt like the obvious choice, with the coaches and program a natural/better fit. The second student-athlete has found the teammates and culture of their program to be the reason for staying, and also found the mentoring and advisors to be good. The third student-athlete realized a big college was not for her, found UNA to be more personal, and appreciates the recognition student-athletes receive. Overall, a positive, family atmosphere appears to attract and keep student-athletes at UNA.

3. Minority Opportunity Workgroup Report

31 pairs (23 are new; numbers are fluid) of mentor-mentees from 10 sports teams are in place, mentors include Dr. Katie Kinney, Interim Provost. Game night(s), speaker series, and other activities will occur in the spring semester.

4. Compliance Report

Ms. Anna Milwee provided information on multiple topics. ASUN schools are competing in a canned food drive until December 5th, with donations benefitting UNA students and the community.

5. Athletic Director Report

Dr. Looney shared relevant updates on Name-Image-Likeness, Bank Independent Stadium and the CB&S Bank Arena lobby project.

6. Faculty Athletics Representative Report

Dr. Ray provided the following updates:

- A new ASUN Commissioner, Mr. Jeff Bacon, was hired on July 1, 2023. The ASUN Commissioner search committee was chaired by President Kitts.

- A proposed softball rule, that would have moved conference series to 3 days (Fri-Sat-Sun), and result in an estimated 4 extra days of missed class & additional expenses (hotel, meals) failed; he saw this proposed change as negative for student-athletes and voted against it as the FAR.

-.An eligibility, retention, and graduation metric, APR (Academic Progress Rate) was 987 (out of 1000) for the 22-23 academic year, which exceeds the 985 incentive mark set by the NCAA (a score of 970 is more typical among peer institutions). This major accomplishment will result in a substantial financial award from the NCAA, which is earmarked for student-athlete academic support programs at UNA.

7. Old Business

The comprehensive mental wellness care that is available to student-athletes was reviewed at the September 8, 2023 meeting; all indications are that UNA follows best practices & meets/exceeds guidelines. No further comments were made or concerns expressed on this topic.

8. New Business

None.

9. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm