

University of North Alabama
Athletic Committee Minutes
April 26, 2024, at 2:00 PM
Pierce Hospitality Suite

Members Present: Dr. Josh Looney, Ms. Corrie Dalrymple, Ms. Minnette Ellis, Dr. Jeff Ray, Dr. Scott Infanger, Mr. Evan Thornton, Ms. Kate Hanbery, Dr. KC White, Dr. Melanie Looser, Ms. Debbie Williams, Dr. Janae Lyde, Dr. Marie Taylor.

Not in attendance: Dr. Lisa Clayton, Ms. Anna Milwee, Ms. Christa Raney, Mr. Jacob Davis, Mr. Will Driver, Mr. EJ Powell.

Call to order at 2:07 PM

Reports

1. Minority Opportunity Committee Report

- a. Update: Janae Lyde, Anna Milwee, TK Kenebrew (student-athlete), and Krista Raney were invited to speak about the mentoring program at the 2023 Alabama Student Success Organization (ALSSO) state conference at “Sharing the Signal: Fostering Student Success”—the presentation was well- received and they were invited to present at the national conference in New Orleans, LA, in February 2025. Funding opportunities will be explored.
- b. This program hosted a game night on January 30th and hosted its 3rd Annual Elite Speaker Series on Tuesday, April 23rd. This event featured former women’s basketball player and UNA alumna Brenda Mayes (former UNA Basketball Player) as the speaker. This event is generously funded by the UNA Alumni Association, so they were able to serve a meal catered by Milla’s Place. Forty student-athletes attended, plus their mentors and other members of the community. An exit survey will be sent out to the mentees.

2. Compliance Report

Ms. Anna Milwee was travelling with Beach Volleyball for their conference tournament-- her information was included with the AD or FAR report.

3. Athletic Director Report

- a. Facilities/fundraising-
 - i. Softball: Turfed softball field around November and completed by March 1 for first home game. A 100% private gift funded this. Dimensions and field grades were updated and regulated to appropriate specifications.
 - ii. Bank Independent site: Construction of turf practice field to be undertaken very soon. This will be a multipurpose field. Soccer & football will have the opportunity to practice there, and the marching pride will also be used as a practice field. There also may be plans to add a track there and consider cross-country use in the future.

- iii. Baseball: Field demolition will likely begin in early June/late May with the aggressive goal of having a playable field for next spring.
 - iv. Tennis: A gift was received in December to fund the installation of the scoreboard, and it was installed in mid-April.
 - v. Beach Volleyball: Coach Caleb Vandiver was named “Coach of the Year”. This is the first Division I “Coach of the Year” title given to a coach at UNA.
- b. College Athletics: Legal Considerations
- i. There are no limitations on transfers without sitting out due to lawsuits and court injunctions. This comes with stricter academic standards and a requirement to meet the “window” for the transfer portal, or else they may have to sit out. Institution of enrollment becomes required to fund scholarships until graduation.
 - ii. NIL deals: Collectives/businesses can offer recruitment deals before an athlete arrives at the school—more details will be provided later.
 - iii. Beach volleyball- ASUN coach of the year (2nd year coach). A home match was broadcast on ESPN+.

4. Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) Report

- a. Fall 2023 Information
 - i. 332 students
 - ii. Overall GPA 3.13 (Greater than 70 students had a 4.0, and 219 students had a 3.0 or higher)
 - iii. Academic progress rate: In the 2023-2024 Academic Year (AY), UNA had a 987 APR, meeting the NCAA incentive level (985).

Old Business

- 1. Student-Athlete perspective
 - a. Discussion: Three student-athletes presented their perspectives on athletics and their academic journey at UNA at the last meeting. The committee might consider keeping this in the overall rotation for annual meetings.
 - b. Action: None at this time.

New Business

- 1. Committee members whose terms expire in 2024
 - a. Discussion: Three members will roll off this year.
 - b. Action: None at this time. The committee will await the final list from the Faculty Senate and reconvene in the next AY.
- 2. Activities to focus on in AY 2024-2025
 - a. Discussion: FAR will review the gender equity and minority opportunity aspects for this committee and will present those at the beginning of the next AY.
 - b. Action: Consider these items and submit them via email to Dr. Ray if there are any concerns or needs for the upcoming AY.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM with an optional tour of athletics facilities immediately following.

Optional ~A tour of on-campus athletics facilities was led by Mr. Wes Brennan, who explained facility upgrades for the CB&S Bank court, a second workout space, Cross Country, Flowers Hall entry way, Men's Basketball, Women's Soccer, Training room, Academic Success Center, and the Football Locker room. The planned layout for the multi-use stadium and baseball field was explained. Four committee members attended.
