

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

Athletic Committee

**University of North Alabama  
Florence, Alabama**

Dr. Melanie Looser

Committee Chair

7-9-2025

Date submitted

Submitted to: Dr. Becky Smith  
Chair, Shared Governance Executive Committee

# UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

## ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

### I. Executive Summary

The 2024–2025 Athletics Committee included the following members:

- Ms. Corrie Dalrymple (by position)
- Mr. Wil Driver (SGA, 2025)
- Ms. Minnette Ellis (by position)
- Ms. Kate Hanbery (by position)
- Ms. Laurie Holder (by position)
- Dr. Scott Infanger (Faculty, 2027)
- Dr. Lauren Killen (Faculty, 2025)
- Ms. Abigail Kusz (SGA, 2025)
- Dr. Josh Looney (by position)
- Dr. Melanie Looser (Faculty, 2025, Chair)
- Dr. Janae Lyde (Athletics Minority Staff, 2027)
- Dr. Scott Lyons (Faculty, 2027, Vice Chair)
- Ms. Christa Raney (Faculty, 2026)
- Dr. Jeffery Ray (by position, FAR)
- Mr. Evan Thornton (by position)
- Dr. KC White (by position)
- Ms. Debbie Williams (by position)
- Ms. Jada Winston (SGA, 2025)

Dr. Melanie Looser served as Committee Chair for 2024-25 and Dr. Scott Lyons, as the Vice Chair, is expected to serve in this capacity for the 2025-26 academic year. The Athletic Committee is charged with ensuring that the athletics program is compliant with policies (procedures, laws, etc.) enacted by the NCAA, ASUN Conference, and state and federal government. The committee is organized into two workgroups: Gender Equity and Minority Opportunity. Ms. Christa Raney & Ms. Anna Milwee continued to increase enrollment in the Minority Opportunity workgroup's efforts to support minority athletes through the Minority Student Athlete Mentoring Program. The Athletic Committee met three times in this academic year to discuss factors impacting the welfare of student athletes at UNA (e.g. UNA resources available to student-athletes, policy changes enacted by the NCAA) in the ever-changing landscape of college athletics.

### II. The Committee's Charge (from the Shared Governance Document)

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"
  9. To submit a final written report electronically by the first contract day of the academic year to the President with a copy sent to the Chair of the Shared Governance Executive Committee

III. The Committee met on the following dates:

- September 20, 2024
- January 17, 2025
- April 11, 2025

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

The Athletics Committee worked throughout the year to support the integration of athletics within the university's broader mission. This included celebrating academic excellence among student-athletes, promoting service through over 2,100 hours of community engagement, and supporting student development through initiatives such as the Athletics Mentoring Program. Regular updates from the Faculty Athletics Representative and Athletics Director emphasized the importance of balancing athletic participation with academic achievement and personal growth.

Compliance remained a key focus, with committee discussions centered on the impacts of NIL policies, transfer portal challenges, scholarship appeals, and updates to NCAA regulations. A case study presented in the spring highlighted the need for greater faculty awareness regarding athletic contracts and appeal processes. Although the Gender Equity Sub-Committee was inactive during the year, the committee maintained communication with relevant stakeholders and formally recommended re-establishing that group in the coming year. Subcommittee work and coordination with the Faculty Senate ensured responsibilities were documented and aligned with compliance goals.

The committee also fulfilled its responsibilities related to shared governance by submitting the required SGEC survey and recommending updated language to reflect current NCAA and conference affiliations. No formal policy changes were proposed; however, the committee reaffirmed that its structure, meeting frequency, and purpose remain appropriate. A final written report was prepared and submitted in accordance with university procedures.

V. What were the Committee's formal recommendations?

The committee proposed an update to its charge language during the SGEC survey submission to reflect current branding and ensure alignment with NCAA and conference standards. See meeting minutes and SGEC survey for specific verbiage. Other than this item, there were no formal recommendations.

VI. What does the Committee plan to accomplish?

A. In the coming year?

Continued monitoring of UNA Athletics' role within the university context, with particular attention to student-athletes' welfare and academic success amid the evolving landscape of college athletics and NCAA regulations.

B. In future years?

As noted above, the committee will continue to meet and respond to ongoing changes in NCAA regulations and House settlement recommendations. Currently, no specific or targeted goals have been identified for future academic years.

VII. What are the Committee's weaknesses?

None noted by the members.

A. What can the Shared Governance Committee help you do to address the weaknesses?

N/A