

UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS COMMITTEE (UAC) MEETING MINUTES  
March 27, 2018, 3:30 PM

Regular Member Attendees: Michael Harris, Mark Moore, Alex Durland, Chal Benson

Ex-officio Members (with vote): Cal Christian, Imran Ahmed

Ex-officio Members (without vote): Matt Militello, Sharon Rogers Moore, Nita Boyce, Becky Jordan

Guests: Kelly Barnhill, Mike Hanley

1. Approval of the February 27, 2018 minutes  
Minutes from February were not approved at this meeting lacking quorum.
  
2. Update from Department of Athletics Representative (Mike Hanley)  
Mike Hanley provided updates of spring sports teams and continued construction progress. He encouraged attendance at the Goldspys end of the year awards banquet. Mike Hanley also discussed the current reporting structure in athletics administration as Jeff Compher transitions out of his position. This included Lee Workman as a point of contact as well as Dave Hart who has been appointed by the chancellor as special advisor to assist with the search for a men's basketball coach, review of the athletics department and search for an athletics director.
  
3. Update from Faculty Athletic Representative (Cal Christian)  
Dr. Christian reported on Chancellor Stanton's address to Faculty Senate regarding the hiring of Dave Hart as special advisor. He recently returned from road trips with both softball and baseball discussing the difficult schedule and academic commitment from a student athlete as they travel, including late returns from road trips and the need to study during travel time. He will be attending the American Athletic Conference symposium at the University of Central Florida next week. This year's symposium focuses on mental health issues with the student athlete, and has several ECU faculty presenting along with Mr. Kelly Barnhill from the ECU Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Dr. Christian has also met with Dave Hart and the Chancellor to discuss academic issues in athletics brought forth by this committee.
  
4. Discussion with Mr Kelly Barnhill, Director of Community Service for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)  
Kelly Barnhill provided a detailed summary of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and described it as a voice for athletes to be involved with both the university and the community. He heads the community service committee from the SAAC which is active with Aces for Autism, the Special Olympics and several other local community organizations. He mentions their nationwide success in community services receiving a \$5000 award from the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, and that

this money was presented back to the local Third Street Academy. Mr Barnhill also discussed life as a student athlete and the importance of time management, and study hall as a freshman. He also mentions the benefits of athletic advisors, early registration, and the initiative of yearly check-ins with team athletic trainers for an athlete's both physical and mental well-being. He also discussed the broad spectrum of services and the accessibility an ECU student athlete has, which he feels is better than many other schools. He does mention the difficulty in balancing academics and study schedule during extended road trips, along with difficulties attending academic events and clubs due to athletics schedule, and the benefits of faculty getting to know athletes.

5. Member Comments:

Follow-up discussion from last meeting addressing academic concerns: A memo was sent to the Director of Athletics outlining our concerns, to which he responded that concerns were being addressed.

Several issues were brought before the committee by members. The first was the change in practice schedule with the football program from afternoon to morning for the fall semester. The concerns were the lack of communication between athletics and academic areas that may be affected by these changes including the athletic training department. The proposed recommendations to the athletics director is that changes should be made well before class registration and be discussed with input from academic departments that may be affected by the changes, along with involvement from the sport administrator and this committee.

The second issue discussed was in reference to the new academic suite in ward, currently under construction that will improve student athlete access to study areas and expand meeting places for tutoring services. The possibility of accessing other study space on campus if needed was brought up along with the possibility of expanding academic services for the student athlete from a personnel stand point, including funding and training. It was proposed that this committee review the academic resources available to student athletes including numbers of staff members, ratio to athletes, and any needs they may have from technology upgrades, to increased space and training for staff. An overview of these support services will be gathered by the chair of this committee and the Faculty Athletics Representative for discussion at our next meeting.

Next meeting is September 25, 2018 at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Alex Durland