

University Athletics Committee Meeting

Oct 27 , 2020. 3:30 pm Held In Teams

Attendees: Michael Harris, Karen Vail-Smith, Cal Christian, Chris Buddo, Erik Kneubuehl, Charles Meadows, Alex Durland, Thompson Forbes, William West, Sharon Justice, Jean-Luc Scemama, Mark Sanders Rachel Baker Peter Francia

Athletics: Alex Keddie, Nita Boyce, Jon Gilbert, Cliff Godwin, Kimberly McNeill

Motion to accept Sept minutes by Cal and 2nd by Alex. Motion passed.

Mike Harris called the meeting to order and welcomed Jon Gilbert to our meeting.

Jon provided the following updates:

APR (Academic Progress rate) average continues to climb and will be final shortly. 984. Highest it has been in 3 years. 2019 was 975. Seeing one final adjustment that will get it to 985. Several teams achieved a perfect score of 1000. We are making a concerted effort with our APR and it is trending positively.

Covid testing protocol is continuing 3 times per week testing and will be implemented for M and W basketball. Still waiting on the Spring protocols. We will have every sport playing next semester and have concerns with the manpower, testing resources, etc to support this number of athletes.

Tulane football game will be noon kickoff Nov 6. 7% attendance cap. We continue to take on water from financial view. We are working on ideas to generate additional revenue. Very difficult to increase revenue with the attendance cap.

Jon opened for questions

How to make additional revenue? We will not make additional revenue at football until the attendance cap is over 17%. 17% will allow the current season ticket holders that opted in, to attend the game. We cannot sell single game tickets until the attendance cap is lifted above 17%

Jon provided a deep dive into the definition of APR:

Jon talked about the scholarship situation with the Covid expansion protocols. ECU can not afford to accommodate the scholarship overage numbers. We will have a significant number of roster management issues. There will also be a pause in the APR management because of the likelihood of roster movements that would otherwise hurt schools. Currently \$8.5-9 million is the current scholarship bill. Pirate club funds about 4-5 million. Athletics picks up the additional bill.

**Jon suggested a future meeting to walk through the scholarship and roster management tactics with a separate small group.

Cal Christian provided an update

Co-Ad is continuing to meet. Academic Advisors or Danielle Morrin will see the freshman athletes at least once a week.

Cliff Godwin and Kimberly McNeill joined the meeting to share their perspective of the coaches and student athletes.

Coach McNeill shared about Women's basketball. Last year the team GPA was around 2.9 when I took over the team. I have addressed in several ways: recruiting, expectations with students.

Motto: FAB: Family, Academics, Basketball.

Today we are at a 3.2 GPA without the pass/fail lens. Each coach takes 5 students that they advise academically in addition to their academic advisor. We are seeking the total athlete. We are not recruiting students that can't be successful in academics.

Team make up : half are from single family homes, 4 are first generation students

Cliff Godwin shared about Baseball. Cliff has been here since 2014. Baseball had never had a team GPA over 3.0. Fall 2014 3.05 GPA achieved. There is now a wall of fame for any player over 3.25 gets on the wall. This past spring we had a team 3.61 GPA without the pass fail lens.

The freshman class this year has struggled with the transition to online. Nita and her team have been vital to assist with the student transitions. Coaches have taken on additional duties of academic advisors. Not recruiting in person has opened up additional time.

Recruiting; we are focused on the student and their academics, not just the athletes. Our culture is focused on their ability/potential. Mission is to always grow on and off the field. We practice service leadership. Our PIRATE motto: Purpose, Integrity, Responsible, Attitude, Toughness, Excellence, Selfless. We have academic teams, each coach "drafts" 8 players and we compete against each other for the highest performance.

*Erik Kneubuehl shared there are several resources that will be available to students post election. He will share those resources at a later date.

Mike thanked the coaches for this time and sharing and then recommended to close the meeting

Recommendation was made to host coaches every year by the UAC to hear about the team environment.

Karen motioned to adjourn, Peter 2nd.

The Next meeting is November 17th at 3:30 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Justice, Secretary