

## University Athletics Committee Meeting

Sept 22, 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, 1 other person joined by phone with no name.

Athletics: Alex Keddie, Nita Boyce, Jon Gilbert,

Motion to accept August minutes, Alex and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cal. Motion passed.

Jon Gilbert, AD provided a quick update to the group.

A new testing protocol has been implemented for game week. All in the football footprint will be tested 3x per week, M/W and quick antigen test on Friday. ADs will meet with the AAC leadership to determine if risk to play is Low, Med or High and a decision will be reached play or cancel. Games are being canceled regularly. ECU does have permission to have 350 people in attendance. 250 from ECU and 100 from CF.

October will allow 7% attendance for football games. Family members will be allowed and potential for donors to attend the game in Oct.

All other sports have moved to the spring. Soccer, VB and XC will play a modified spring season.

Budget: Athletics implemented a 5 day furlough in summer and are reviewing the possibility of additional furlough for staff in an effort to help the budget.

Medical and Training staff are the department MVPs. They are the front line and we are fortunate to have this talented medical group.

AAC approved Men's BB games. 27 games will be played, 20 league and 7 Non Conference. Still waiting on the testing protocol. Reality is there will be cancellations along the way, hopeful to play as many as health concerns will allow.

Jon took Q &A.

Capacity of stadium is approximately 50K. 7% would be 3750 ish attendees.

IF the game is canceled Saturday how does that impact finances: We are losing money because we are not allowed to have fans in the stands. We do not know the outcome because of the TV contracts in place. Cancelling games will have a future impact on TV revenue we project—but we do not know.

Bottom line we need the games for the TV revenue to not be impacted.

Updates from the FAR: Call provide only a short update. His perspective that the term finishing before Thanksgiving is a positive for Basketball students. The Pass/Fail option is also useful for students that may be struggling.

**SAAC update:** Student athlete appealed loss of scholarship. The request from Faculty Senate: Provide any additional clarification or support to the two sides to enhance communication.

The UAC accountability is to ensure both sides (SAAC and Athletics) understand the process, identify if there is the need to educate the SAAC on the additional layers of requirements for student athlete aid.

Michael, Alex, Sharon and Cal met to discuss the process and the UAC response. Cal and Mike met with SAAC committee to learn more about the appeals process and uncover any additional steps or processes that needed to be solidified or communicated. This was the first appeal related to the transfer portal process.

Note: Student athletes scholarships are year to year agreements, however, any reduction or elimination of student aid per NCAA guidelines allows for student athlete appeals.

Alex Keddie has created 3 documents which will be shared with the SAAC committee outlining NCAA protocols and information that may be helpful in documenting the Athletic scholarship protocols. This documentation should be useful by the SAAC in any future student athlete appeals. Mike Harris will share the handouts

Mike Harris asked what the UAC can do to help Athletics with SAAC.

- ✓ Athletics requests clarification on requested documentation, timelines, and ways to submit the document that will enhance the likelihood of timely review. Will SAAC provide reasons for overturning decisions to allow for coach education? (like students are provided explanation)
- ✓ Awareness of looking ahead of Covid implications of additional years of eligibility, COVID waivers, new recruits, 5<sup>th</sup> year aid (in the ECU policy is never guaranteed)—but what happens if a student appeals for this 5<sup>th</sup> year aid. This needs to be in the awareness of the SAAC.
- ✓ The committee will:
  - look through the 3 documents provided by Alex K
  - understand the budget with Covid waivers will be a challenge
  - discuss with SAAC to ensure they understand the documents provided
  - ask SAAC for clarification about questions
  - Exec team will meet to resolve and close this topic.

Alex Keddie presented information on eligibility. Her presentation notes are in Teams site.

Mike asked a Question about Grad transfers: They have to pass 6 credits every semester. They have to remain in good academic standing at ECU. NCAA has adopted the policy that transfers are allowed to pursue a grad degree, certificate, or second undergrad degree program.

Opt Out Policy: Scholarship is protected this year if a student chooses to opt out of competition due to covid concerns.

Recruiting Dead period has been extended to Jan 1. Student signing dates have not changed commitment dates. Students will be signing before being allowed to visit campus, or have coaches visit them. This is a challenge for both sides.

William West: Will there be any penalties for student athletes not wearing masks. ECU Athletics follow ECU campus policies. Alex will check if there are any fines from the NCAA or AAC.

Motion for adjourn: Cal, Second Karen Vail Smith. Committee adjourned at 4:45 pm