

## University Athletics Committee Meeting

Jan 19 , 2020. 3:30 pm Held In Teams

Attendees: Michael Harris, Karen Vail-Smith, Cal Christian, Chris Buddo, Erik Kneubuehl, Charles Meadows, Thompson Forbes, Sharon Justice, Jean-Luc Scemama, Mark Sanders, Alex Durland, , , Debbie Shoop, , Hans Vogelsong

Athletics: Alex Keddie, Nita Boyce, Danielle Morrin

Students: Timothy Bunten, Joshua Spare, Brittany Borchers

Motion to accept Nov minutes by Jean Luc 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hans Vogelsong. Motion passed.

Mike Harris called the meeting to order and welcomed Jon Gilbert to the meeting who provided an Athletics update.

- Return to campus is well executed. All sports, (along with spring football) are in action this semester. We expect to have disruptions but our medical team is doing an outstanding job managing Covid and all the requirements to keep everyone safe
- Budget: we have trimmed about \$9M from our budget
- The semester will be difficult. We will play lots of sports and bring in little revenue
- New TV contract is in play. Most events will be on the ESPN+. We have a new control room at Dowdy and the new capabilities. In prior years we had ability to broadcast as we wanted with cameras and voices. With the new contract we must follow guidelines for it to be an ESPN+ production, including hiring non-partisan broadcast talent. There will be a combination of events on our website. They are called pass through events. Lower cost event production, but there will be limitations.
- We can only do 1 broadcast at a time, so we must navigate the scheduling challenges.
- Event Attendance: In consultation with PC health director, we are working on attendance guidance for outdoor events. Currently allowed approximately 100 people, that includes players families. Currently in basketball we are allowed 25 people.
- Met with head coaches, and for summer aid, we will only offer for sequencing or eligibility.
- We have continued furloughs.
- Eligibility: we are still planning to work within our current scholarship numbers, but we are working with all the extra COVID-19 extensions and finding solutions.
  - Example: 85 scholarships, only sign 25 per year, assume 10 seniors to return for a 5<sup>th</sup> year. Next year scholarship number could be 95. ECU is not able to afford this allowance and coaches must work within the numbers they currently have.
- Karen brought up the question about allowing fans in the stands that have proof of vaccination. Jon indicated he would follow up with the public health department. As the Governor and the state health director provide updates, we will adjust immediately if changes in attendance are allowed.

- Jon indicated he is in conversation with coaches for Swim/Dive and Tennis. Anticipate hiring of head coaches in the spring. Bulk of expense will occur next fall. ECU will have to decide when to start competing again. There is some discussion of not competing until 22-23
- Track meet is in discussion. Schools must meet our covid testing protocol to come in to compete with us. We are in upper 1/3 of the schools for rigid protocols which is difficult to match, especially in multiple school events.

#### Cal Christian Provided a Faculty Rep update

- Cal has spent additional time over the break on compliance protocols, academic exceptions. Cal expressed confidence in our compliance efforts
- AAC conference is upcoming. Stacy Warner is presenting on student wellbeing, USF if hosting the virtual event.
- Student development has gone back to live events. Study Hall, tutoring, mentoring is happening as much as possible in person. Weekly covid testing is required for staff, student staff, etc.

Danielle Morrin provided an overview of her many roles. She works heavily with the students, COAD, and life skills. 3 Student athletes, part of the SAAC leadership team joined our call and provided their perspectives. SAAC is student organization with 2 reps from each team that provide overall student leadership to Athletes.

Students: Timothy Bunten, Joshua Spare, Brittany Borchers

Challenges: uncertainty, travel uncertainty, we don't know if we go until the day of travel. It is hard to prepare mentally and physically for the uncertainty. Academic integrity is a bigger concern than ever. For most, this is the first time not competing for extended periods which raise mental health concerns. It is hard to manage the change. The testing policy is very rigid, if we test positive, we are not able to travel. Everything we have trained for is out the window. Most of us are not getting out of our homes very much. Quarantine is a big deal. We can be exposed and out of contact for 2 weeks. Even if we have no symptoms and test negative.

DE transition: higher level of stress, 8 week blocks were very difficult. Students didn't feel they received the same education due to being home, more distractions, etc. There were a lot of expectations of teaching self. The new level of accountability and time management skills was a growth, positive.

For the first time, the schedule was not regimented. Students feel very disconnected from professors. Some professors did not engage, or provide regular opportunities for contact or teaching interaction. Difficult to learn.

Mental Health: SAC has made resources very visible and education has happened. There has been a lot more anxiety concerns and reports due to the uncertainty of "life". We have reached out to

our teammates and tried to be more aware of how we can help our team members. We have seen an increase in negativity around our student population.

Thanks to Danielle for coordinating the athletes and their valuable feedback.

Motion to adjourn: Cal, Second by Alex Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Sharon Justice, Secretary UAC 1-19-21