

COMMITTEE: University Athletic Committee

MEETING DATE: March 23, 2021

PERSON PRESIDING: Mike Harris

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mike Harris, Alex Durland, Peter Francia, Mark Sanders, Thompson Forbes, Charles Meadows

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE (with vote): Cal Christian, Jean-Luc Scemama,

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE (without vote): Nita Boyce, Karen Vail Smith, Alex Keddie, Eric Kneubuehl, Chris Buddo

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Ryan Robinson, Rachel Baker

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Approval of February 16, 2021 minutes

Discussion: None

Action Taken: Minutes approved without amendment

Agenda Item: Update by Ryan Robinson and Alex Keddie

Discussion:

Ryan:

- Discussed NC's move to allow 50% attendance at sporting events. However, the 6-foot requirement was still in place. So, they were not going to be able to increase the baseball attendance amount.
- The football spring game scheduled for April 17th would have 50% attendance, but they were not expecting that large of a crowd. Hoping to have some type of Town Hall opportunity around the spring game.
- Football Season Ticket applications have gone out along with Pirate Club renewals
- All of the spring sports seasons are off to a good start. Basketball seasons have concluded and they held senior day for the Volleyball team.

Alex:

- Discussed the transfer portal and that legislation regarding the immediate eligibility of student-athletes that are transferring is in front of the NCAA and they are expected to act on this soon.
- Discussed the policy regarding seniors (that are coming back for the extra year of eligibility as it is related to COVID) who will not necessarily receive a scholarship. The athletic department will have to stay with the scholarship limits mandated by the NCAA due to

financial constraints (even though, the NCAA has allowed waivers to scholarship limits due to COVID).

- Summer School classes that the athletic department will pay for will be limited to only those student-athletes that need the class to stay eligible or have a sequencing issue.

Action Taken: None

Agenda Item: Cal Christian, FAR Update

Discussion:

- USF will be hosting the 4th annual AAC Symposium March 29-30. This is an event where the AAC Universities come together for a two-day academic event around student-athlete well-being. We have several ECU faculty presenting research (they received an AAC grant at a previous Symposium) at the Symposium.
- Student registration has started and this can sometimes present conflicts between classes and practice schedules and Cal will work with Academic Advisors to make sure the Student-Athletes are able to pursue the major of their choice and not the most convenient major.

Action Taken: None

Agenda Item: Ryan Robinson, Executive Associate Athletics Director for External Operations and Interim Director of the Pirate Club.

Discussion: Ryan discussed his various roles. In addition to overseeing external operations (i.e., Marketing and Fan Engagement, Media Relation, Ticket sales, Video Services, Pirate Sports Properties, etc.) he also has direct administrative responsibilities for Men's Basketball, Men's Golf and Women's Golf. He is also serving as the Interim Director of the Pirate Club.

- Ryan gave some of his background from his time at the University of Tennessee and with the NFL and how it has prepared him for this role.
- Ryan discussed how far the Men's basketball team has come academically from when he first arrived.
- Ryan discussed the challenges faced by the Pirate Club. The staff is really short-handed, but they are now back to hiring additional staff and just brought Drew Moeller back on staff. He had been at the University of Pittsburg after starting his career at ECU. Raising the needed funds will be closely aligned with how well the Pirates do on the field.
- Ryan discussed the challenges of engaging the students and recent graduates in the Pirate Club and in attending the games.

NEXT MEETING: April 20, 2021, 3:30 – 5:00 PM
Virtually on Teams

SUBMITTED BY: Cal Christian