

University Athletic Committee Agenda
March 22, 2022, 3:30pm
Pat Draughon Study Center Conference Room/MS Teams

In Attendance: Jon Gilbert, Karen Vail-Smith, Peter Francia, Mark Sanders, Alex Keddie, Thompson Forbes, Eric Kneubuehl, Adriana Cowell, Shannon Powell, Cal Christian, Alex Durland, Michael Harris, Brian O'Hara, Stephanie White

1. Approval of the February 15, 2022 minutes

Approved

2. Update from Athletics Director (Jon Gilbert)

Update on Gender Equity and Diversity plan, linked on the ECU Athletics website. Jon discussed how the decision to reduce teams was largely financial, decided by the athletic and university administration. Reinstatement of women's teams was in order to meet title ix criteria related to athletic opportunities comparable to undergraduate student body female to male enrollment ratios. These ratios began shifting more heavily toward a higher female student body requiring the need for more female athletic opportunities.

Lots of fundraising going on. In door practice facility and swimming locker room planning. Will not build without funds in hand.

Weight room projects is underway. Anticipation of completion by December. Building is paid for by gift from donor.

NCAA going through transformation. Centered on fear of antitrust lawsuits. Transformation committee focused on deregulation. Will be voted on by the summer. Will eventually will see a pay for play model. Multiple levels of Division I are likely and will be aligned based on budgetary levels.

Q- Does pay for play substitute for scholarship.

A- Likely pay for play and scholarship.

Q- Will there be more conference realignment.

A- Will always happen based on TV contracts.

Q- Is there a scenario where some sports are pay for play and others do not.

A- Schools are relying on basketball and football to pay for other sports. If you go to pay for play model, there will be major Title IV issues.

Q- How basketball decision was made and diversity considered. Was relationship with Tenn a factor. What is basketballs future.

A- Record over the last 4 years 44/67. Conf 16/49. Jon has higher expectations for our program. In a position to extend long term or make a change. Felt a change was

warranted. Moved quickly with a plan. Talked to a number of coaches, search firms, and agents. Had a previous working relationship with Shwartz. This is a difficult job. ECU basketball does not have a history. Needed someone that wanted the job and wanted to be here. Most of ECU sports are funded in the bottom third of the league. Spent more in the last three years on ECU basketball than we have in the history of ECU basketball.

Q- Do you have a feel about current basketball players staying or leaving.

A- Do not know who is staying or leaving.

Q- UNC systems removed having to pay out of state tuition for student athletes.

A- Will save close to \$1000000.

3. Update from Faculty Athletics Representative (Cal Christian)

AAC Symposium in a few weeks. Travelled with the baseball team over spring break. Travelled with softball this past week. Great opportunity to learn about student athletes. Remember the student athletes are busy with traveling.

4. Discussion with Brian O'Hara Assistant Director of Student Development

Lead academic coordinator for football. Work with students from decision to attend through graduation. Spend time coordinating scheduling classes, training, study halls, academic meetings. Meet with every student once per week until graduation. Will also work with students who want to come back to school. Brian was a one man show through most of the Fall. Scouts will also go to Brian first to get a feel for student quality.

5. Member Comments

Stephanie White – Going through a program name change to Student Athlete Academic Services. Staying with Student Athlete Development for life skills. Progress reports sent via Teamworks recently. Progress report response rate was 26%. Through first round of Teamworks increased response rate to >60%. Teamworks can also send out travel letters.

6. Academic Integrity Sub-Committee Meeting (Faculty)

Closed meeting for review of Student Development Academic report.