

University Athletic Committee Agenda
February 28, 2023, 3:30 pm
Pat Draughon Study Center Conference Room

Attendees: Timm Hackett, Alex Keddie, Cal Christian, Katie Flanagan, Stephanie White, Mike Houston, Peter Francia, Karen Vail-Smith, Andrew Pickett, Stacy Warner, Mark Sanders, Emily Yeager

Meeting Called to Order by Chair, Timm Hackett.

1. Approval of January 31, 2023, 2022 minutes
 - a. Motion to approve by Peter Francia, Second Katie Flanagan. Approved.

2. Remarks from Mike Houston, ECU Pirates Head Football Coach
 - a. Coach provided general discussion with recap of the 2022 Football season
 - b. Successful year capped with Birmingham Bowl win
 - c. Program has experienced players graduating and others moving on which will give younger student athletes a fresh start
 - d. Exciting time with winter workouts and look forward to the spring season
 - e. Program is stable with roster and coaching staff
 - f. Looking ahead to opening Fall of 2023 at University of Michigan
 - g. AAC will undergo change with new teams entering conference
 - i. ECU will be only University not located in large city
 - h. Academics trending in positive direction with help of Academic services
 - i. Member comments:
 - i. What would you like for us to share with faculty across campus? (T. Hackett)
 1. Football staff places an emphasis on academics and being held accountable
 2. Try to help spread message to understand the life of a D1 College Football Athlete.
 - a. A lot of changes in lifestyle of freshman and the adjustment to not only college but being a D1 student-athlete.
 - ii. Katie Flanagan encouraged faculty to ensure dates are being displayed and entered into Canvas calendar to help with busy lives of all students and student athletes
 - iii. General discussion about NCAA football scheduling, length of season/schedule, practices, day to day life of D1 Football player
 1. High impact and development of the Football athlete presents wear and tear both mentally and physically on student-athletes over a season.
 2. Changes potentially coming within Football game for pace/speed of play
 - iv. As a Coach, do you spend much time with Athletes dealing with social media along with the comments being made towards your players? (P. Francia)
 1. Coach encourages players to be conscientious of what content each listens to and keeping focus on the team

2. Routinely speaks with players on this topic and the amount of negativity that sometimes comes with comments from social media that ranges from great fan support to serious threats.
 - a. Student-Athlete Mental Health is a concern as it relates to social media and comments that are made
 3. Social media also becomes a great component of NIL deals that help student-athletes
 - v. Does the Football student-athlete understand how football contributes to ECU financially and what drives the Athletic department? (C. Christian)
 1. Impact is felt throughout athletics, the University, and the community.
 2. Very important to our entire team
 3. A lot of new players will see their turn to play and make an impact this year and its exciting.
 - vi. Unanimously commended the job Coach Houston and his staff is doing for ECU and our student athletes
3. Athletic Director's Update (Alex Keddie)
- a. Brief update on the successful start to the spring sports season and end to the winter sports.
 - i. Softball and Baseball with great wins
 - ii. Women's Swim and Dive a great showing at conference meet
 - iii. Men's basketball had a sellout in Minges hosting #1 ranked Houston
 - iv. ECU Women's basketball ending season ranked 3rd in the conference after having a great crowd for their final home game win in triple overtime.
 1. Discussion amongst group about how Women's basketball student-athletes have been great ambassadors in the community and the culture that has been established during Coach Kim McNeil's tenure.
 2. Academically, ECU Women's basketball is performing well and faculty in attendance also agreed with performance in the classroom
 3. Conference tournament play starts 3/7 and hope to have a post-season bid
 - v. Athlete Safety is priority for NCAA Transformation Committee meeting in April
 1. Awaiting proposed items discussed and will report back to UAC
 - vi. NCAA "Pay for Play" case being held in court recently and encourages UAC to keep a watch on this case
 1. Outcome will go to the Supreme Court in a few months
4. Update from Faculty Athletics Representative (Cal Christian)
- a. Spring sports is an incredibly busy time with seasons rolling over.
 - i. Administrators are present at all events on campus and with team travel
 - b. Encourage faculty to reach out to FAR with ongoing challenges with travel and missing class.
 - c. FAR and Academic services will handle challenges and manage issues and concerns
 - d. Student-Athletes are very good at adjusting their lifestyle and business of schedules to meet academic demands during the year.

- e. Transformation Committee report is evolving
 - i. ECU Athletics administration will keep up with any new changes made and report back to UAC
 - f. Recently held webinars on NIL for tax purposes and information for student-athletes
 - g. AAC symposium will be hosted by Tulane April 13th-15th, 2023.
5. Chair's notes
- a. Will UAC need to meet in April or have business that is needed to discuss? (T. Hackett)
 - i. General discussion concerning faculty senate report that is compiled by Chair of UAC
 - 1. Due in March to faculty senate
 - ii. April meeting of UAC may be needed based on updates from the NCAA Transformation Committee meetings
 - 1. April meeting TBD at later date
6. Member Comments:
- a. Stephanie White (Athletics Academic Services) reports that her and staff have a great working relationship with Coach Houston and the Football staff.
 - i. Football student athletes are very thankful and grateful for the work Athletics Academics services is providing.
7. Motion to adjourn by Karen Vail-Smith, Second by Stacy Warner. Adjourned at 4:30pm.
8. Next meeting 3/21/2023 at 3:30pm, Pat Draughon Study Center Conference room.