

Athletics Update to Faculty Senate

April 2023

Joel J. Pawlak, Faculty Athletics Representative

Katie Graham, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Senior
Associate Athletics Director

Stephanie Menio, Deputy Director of Athletics

Overview

- Council on Athletics – Pawlak
 - Student-Athlete Experience
- Academics Update – Graham
- Athletics Update - Menio

Council on Athletics

Purpose and Responsibility

- Assist the Chancellor in exercising institutional control.
- Membership (26) composed of Faculty, Alumni Association, Wolfpack Club, Coaching Staff, Students, Athletics Department Staff (ex officio).



Council Theme

Student-Athlete Experience

- **Goal:** To highlight the importance of the student-athlete experience on campus.
- Meeting Agenda Items:
 - Visit to Football Practice
 - Time Management for Student-Athlete: NCAA Rules and Review
 - Student-Athlete Development – Beyond Competition
 - Mental Health and Wellness Resources
 - Tour of Remodeled Case Academic Center
 - Sports Medicine – Physical Well-being for our students



Areas of Discussed on an Annual Basis

- Academic performance and graduation rates
- Budget
- Title IX
- Changes in NCAA rules
- Meetings with head coaches
- Facilities upgrades and improvements

Actions Taken by the Council



- Revised bylaws
- Updated academic intervention policy related to class attendance
- Approved commendation for outstanding head coach

Other items of note

- Academic Incentive Awards – Student-athletes can now be awarded up to \$5980 for academic success.
 - \$500 per student-athlete per semester for cum GPA above 3.25
 - Up to \$5980 (total) based on percentage of scholarship
 - Annual spending on academic incentives of ~\$1.7 million
- Extended COVID eligibility mean significantly more graduate student-athletes.
 - Example, before COVID typically 10-15 students-athletes were seeking grad opportunities. Now, there are 45-50 looking to pursue graduate education.
 - Transfer student-athletes have complications due to their athlete status due to transfer windows and team dynamics meeting application deadlines.

FAR Summary

- Council is active and engaged throughout academic year with the oversight of Athletics.
- The Athletics Department is investing in the student-athlete experience by enhancing facilities and providing support.
- The college athletics landscape continues to evolve.
 - Name, image, and likeness
 - Increased rates of transfers
 - Extended eligibility due to COVID exceptions
 - Pending legal cases at the national level (House, Alston, Johnston cases)