

TO: University Senate
FROM: Loren E. Wold, Athletic Council Chair 2016-2017
RE: Athletic Council Annual Report 2016-17
DATE: May 19, 2017

Athletic Council (AC) is a University Senate committee consisting of fifteen members (8 faculty, 4 students, 2 alumni and 1 staff) as well as numerous ad hoc members. AC is “an agent of the Senate, in accordance with the University Bylaws, and subject to the general authority of the President and Board of Trustees, shall have the power and authority to create and establish policies governing intercollegiate athletics.” The work of AC is done predominantly in three subcommittees: Academic Progress and Eligibility, Equity and Student-Athlete Wellbeing and Finance and Facilities. In the following report, the work of each subcommittee during the 2016-2017 academic year are described by the individual committee chairs, followed by my Chair summary.

Academic Progress and Eligibility (AP&E)

In 2016-17 the AP&E Committee focused on the following initiatives

1) Mitigation plans were reviewed. Mitigation plans were reviewed for 12 teams missing between seven and ten days of class in a semester (Level Two Schedule) and two team missing more than ten days of class (Level Three Schedule). After discussion, and after concerns were adequately addressed, all plans were approved. There were ongoing discussions over the course of year regarding the optimal way to address teams with over ten missed class days. The committee felt it was important to provide clarity to procedures necessary to approve mitigation plans in this setting. A subcommittee is being formed to address this issue and it will provide recommendations to the committee for approval.

Academic mitigation plans were reviewed and approved for three students in the fall semester and one student in the spring semester. It was noted that the number of student athletes requiring academic mitigation plans was quite low, which speaks to the quality and academic preparedness of our student athletes and the excellent support of SASSO.

2) Draft policies for student athletes requesting transfer to other institutions and for official visits were reviewed and vetted with members of the athletic department. There were excellent discussions regarding both of these policies. In general, AP&E members felt the policies were sound and clearly articulated.

3) The committee reviewed updates on Ohio State’s academic stress test, in essence, a proactive review of areas of potential concern for our student athlete population, including unusual major concentration and excessive enrollment in on-line classes. Overall, review of the academic stress test suggested no “red flags” or areas of substantial concern

4) AP&E selected outstanding male and female student athletes as winners of the Big Ten Post-graduate Scholarship and the Big Ten Medal of Honor. Many faculty members commented on the difficult task of

selecting individual winners given the superior quality of the candidates. The committee discussed the inherent difficulty in selecting athletes across very different sports, competing against a wide variety of competitive fields. It also discussed the different criteria for national awards, such as All-American status, depending on the sport. As such, it was decided that in the future there would be an initial meeting with representatives of the athletic department to review the finalists and obtain feedback and gain better perspective prior to voting by AP&E. It was felt that this would result in more informed voting and the most equitable way to select winners for these prestigious awards.

Prepared by Dr. Phil Diaz (Medicine)
AP&E Committee Chair and Chair-Elect of AC

Equity and Student-Athlete Wellbeing (ESAW)

This year ESAW had discussions on a range of topics that impact the wellbeing of our student-athletes. The committee members were given good insights into the services the Athletic Department offers, but we also discussed current issues facing student-athletes and the committee members were able to share their ideas and insights. We held meetings on the following topics:

- **Physical Well-being**

Jim Borchers presented to the committee about the medical services offered to our student-athletes, with a special focus on the trends and latest thinking on concussions.

Sarah Wick met with the committee to discuss nutrition services.

Doug Calland discussed both training services and drug education and testing.

- **Emotional Well-being**

Jennifer Carter talked to the committee about the mental health services offered to our student-athletes as well as about current trends in the mental health of college students.

Andy Teitelbaum and Carey Fagan talked about a variety of topics related to team culture and how to maintain healthy coach-athlete interactions.

- **Personal Responsibility**

Ryan Stamper led an interesting discussion about social justice and how the football program addresses the role that student-athletes can play in issues of social justice.

Megan Cable and Kellie Brennan presented to the committee about the range of sexual assault education programming that is offered to our student-athletes.

- **Other**

Janine Oman helped the committee understand the latest NCAA Time Demands Proposal and the impact that has on our athletes and coaches.

Julie Vannatta presented to the committee about Title IX and how the university assures compliance.

Prepared by Dr. Keely Croxton (Marketing and Logistics/Business)
ESAW Committee Chair

Finance and Facilities (FiFa)

The 2016-17 Finance and Facilities (FiFa) committee consisted of: Brian Turner (chair); faculty members Michael Hogan, Hasan Jeffries, and Keely Croxton; alumni members Greg Lashutka and Roger Ball; students Adam Watson and Tracy Walterbusch; and staff member Kevin Petrilla. Ex-officio members included Athletic Department staff Joseph Odoguardi, Brett Scarbrough, and Michael Penner; and Kristine DeVine, Vice President for Operations and Deputy Chief Financial Officer at Ohio State.

In September, FiFa approved football ticket prices for the 2017 season. Approving football ticket prices in the fall creates a challenge getting on the Board of Trustees agenda in a timely fashion. Therefore, it was decided to move the discussion of football ticket prices to the spring. In March, football ticket prices for the 2018 season were approved.

FiFa approved a change in the number of pricing levels for men's basketball tickets. Beginning with the 2017-18 season, there will be four different price levels (up from two). The new pricing structure was designed to help increase attendance at men's basketball games. FiFa also approved a 6% increase in golf membership dues (4% for capital/reserve/replacement and 2% for operations).

In December, Mike Penner gave an update on facility constructions and renovations. Molly Kurth from Levy Restaurants gave an update on alcohol sales at Ohio Stadium during the January meeting.

Finally, the 2017-18 athletic department budget was approved at the April meeting. Revenues are projected to increase by 11.7%, primarily due to an increase in television rights.

Prepared by Dr. Brian Turner (Sport Management)
FiFa Committee Chair

Summary Remarks

The 2016-2017 academic year was a very busy year for Athletic Council, with multiple issues that were tackled. In addition to serving on several of the subcommittees reviewed above, AC focused on the following issues:

1. Enhancing student athlete well-being
 - a. A running theme of this academic year was how can we as a Senate committee continue to foster enhanced student athlete well-being, and be good stewards of our roles as faculty/staff/alumni. We met with many representatives from athletics and those involved in fostering student athlete well-being and continued to dialogue on how we can best serve our student athletes.
2. Discussion of our interaction with COIA
 - a. We discussed at length how beneficial our relationship is with the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA). It was determined that we would continue to assess how we can best interface with COIA moving forward, with the potential to have a standing

representative from OSU (currently, the Chair and Chair-Elect attend the annual meeting of COIA, but this does not provide much institutional memory).

- b. It appeared from the last COIA meeting that it has become more organized, and we therefore are optimistic that this will continue.
3. Interface with the Senate
 - a. Gene Smith, John Davidson and myself presented to the University Senate on issues related to athletics, including the significant expansion of the facilities that is taking place.
 4. Revitalizing the SASSO student athlete academic achievement award
 - a. We voted to rename this award the Miechelle Willis student athlete academic achievement award in honor of Ms. Willis, who has championed for this group of athletes during her time as Deputy Director of Athletics at OSU. Miechelle is retiring this year, and we felt this was a great way to honor her legacy.
 5. Greater involvement with academically at risk student athletes.
 - a. We continued to work with student athletes who were academically at risk in providing mentorship from AC faculty. This has been exceptionally productive with all students paired with a mentor significantly increasing their GPAs.

Submitted by Dr. Loren E. Wold (Medicine/Nursing)
Athletic Council Chair (2016-2017)