

**Athletic Council Annual Report 2018-2019**  
**Wendy Smooth, Chair**

The Athletic Council has broad authority to develop policies governing intercollegiate athletics at Ohio State. The Council consists of 15 voting members, including eight tenure track faculty; four students; two alumni and one staff member. The Council meets monthly during the fall and spring semesters with representatives of the Athletic Department, Student Athletic Support Service Office (SASSO), the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) and the president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. The Athletic Council has three standing committees which meet regularly throughout the year: Academic Progress and Eligibility (AP&E), Equity and Student Athlete Well-Being (ESAW) and Finance and Facilities (FiFa).

The Athletic Council addressed the following issues this year:

- The Council welcomed the new leader of **Student Athlete Support Services Office (SASSO)** Mr. Derek Cowherd who comes to us from a fellow conference, the SEC. Mr. Cowherd presented his vision for increasing support for academic services to our student athletes.
- The Council received a report from School of Communications professor, Dr. Nicole Kraft who presented the results of the first Student Tech on Academic Success course which teaches freshman Student-Athletes, alongside other students how to properly utilize their university issued iPads. The Council regarded this course as a model for incoming freshman across the university.
- The Athletic Council reviewed the Urban Meyer investigation report and the ongoing Strauss investigation and discussed potential learning outcomes. We enacted efforts to systematically obtain learning outcomes that may improve practices across Athletics.
- Time demands and mental health care remain top issues for intercollegiate sports. The Council received reports and updates on these issues via our FAR John Davidson and we continue to monitor legislative discussions at the NCAA and Big Ten levels via our FAR on these and other matters of student athlete wellbeing.
- Head Team Physician Dr. Jim Borchers (Wexner Medical Ctr) presented to the Athletic Council on the centrality of **Independent Medical Care** as a principal value guiding oversight of our student athletes' care. We were assured that this principle guides our practices in ways that allow us to create an overall culture of student athlete care that minimizes the risks that we encounter that can lead to disastrous outcomes and fatalities as we witnessed with our Big Ten colleagues this year.
- The Council completed its review of new Title IX compliance language and voted to incorporate new Title IX compliance language into our institutional governing documents resulting in our Athletics Department being the first in the Big Ten to include such language.
- Athletics Compliance presented Athletic Council with revisions to the Big Ten Institutional Control Standards and the Athletic Council approved the updates and revisions.

- Beth Hume, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education shared the redesign of the Office of Student Academic Services and the Athletic Council discussed how it might further engage with the work of OSAS.
- In response to the need for greater inclusion of the OSU community in senate decision making and governance, we proposed rule changes that would increase the number of staff representatives by 1 and increase their term of service from 2 years to 4 year, in keeping with faculty appointments. This proposed rule change was passed by the Board of Trustees and the Council will welcome an additional staff member as a Presidential Appointee beginning in the 2019-2020 academic year. We also proposed denoting up to two faculty positions as non-tenure track faculty positions. Our proposed rule changes were in keeping with the committee composition proposal submitted by the Rules Committee and the Athletic Council will welcome non-tenure track faculty in keeping with the new composition rules passed by the Board of Trustees.
- Faculty Athletic Representative, John Davidson was up for reappointment this year. In keeping with Senate Rules, The Athletic Council conducted a performance review of Davidson and decided unanimously to support reappointment. We forwarded our recommendation to President Drake and he has reappointed Davidson to a second term.

The following reflect the work of the three standing committees throughout the year.

### **2018-2019 Athletic Progress and Evaluation Committee (AP&E)**

Chair: Hasan Kwame Jeffries

Committee Members: Wendy Smooth; Keely Croxton; Courtney Lynch; Michael Hogan; Ken Lee; Kisha Radliff; Treva Lindsey; Tracey Walterbusch.

AP&E ensures that OSU athletic teams provide student athletes with the resources they need to excel in the classroom, particularly when competing away from campus by requiring and reviewing rigorous academic mitigation plans for travel for each varsity team. AP&E also closely monitors the progress of students who have been deemed ineligible to play because of poor academic performance, a key safeguard to maintaining academic integrity within the department of athletics, and an important part of the process for getting struggling students back on track. AP&E also selects student athlete award winners.

- AP&E held regular monthly meetings during academic year 2018-2019 starting in September 2019.
- The committee reviewed and approved twenty-eight initial and two revised Missed Class Time Reports and Mitigation Plans. The committee discussed best practices for writing mitigation plans and assessed the new mitigation plan template that coaches began using for the first time this academic year at the request of the 2017-2018 AP&E.
- AP&E reviewed and approved two revised Student Athlete Academic Recovery Plans.
- The committee invited Derek Cowherd, the Executive Director of Student Athlete Support Services Office (SASSO), to lead a discussion on the Academic Stress Test Plan (ASTP). The ASTP focuses on student-athlete preparedness upon entering the university; assessing student-athlete outcomes and tracking “student-athlete success;” and maintaining independence between university units and Athletics. Mr. Cowherd provided a general overview of the

instrument, reviewed the 2017-2018 stress test findings and conclusions, and identified directional trends for 2018-2019.

- The committee invited Doug Archie, Senior Associate Athletic Director for Compliance, and John Davidson, Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR), to discuss the implications and risk areas associated with expanded legalized gambling.
- AP&E selected four 2018-2019 Miechelle Willis Academic Achievement Award winners. The Willis Award recognizes student athletes who have overcome obstacles to achieve academic success. In addition, the committee streamlined the student-athlete nomination process, vesting more selection authority in the SASSO academic counseling team.
- AP&E also selected four outstanding male and female student athletes as winners of the Big Ten Post-Graduate Scholarship and the Big Ten Medal of Honor

### **Equity and Student-Athlete Well-Being (ESAW)**

Chair: Courtney Lynch

Committee Members: Keely Croxton, Kisha Radliff, Chris O'Neil, Matthew Hamrick,

Ex Officio Members: Wendy Smooth, Gene Smith, Janine Oman, Julie Vannatta, Karrington Pettiford-Winters, John Davidson (Faculty Athletic Representative)

In an effort to further include alumni and staff in Athletic Council committees, the following individuals were invited to attend ESAW meetings as guests: Steve Chappellear (alumni representative), Kevin Petrilla (USAC representative).

#### Composition and Charge of the Committee

Per the Athletic Council of the University Senate Bylaws, the Equity and Student-Athlete Well-Being (ESAW) committee is composed of at least four (4) faculty and two (2) students (one of whom is an undergraduate), all members of Athletic Council. Ex-officio members include the Chair of the Athletic Council, the Director of Athletics, a SAAB representative, a representative from the Office of Legal Affairs, an Assistant or Associate Athletics Director designated by the Director of Athletics, and the FAR.

The charge of ESAW is to:

- (1) Monitor issues of equity related to student-athletes and provide timely reports on equity matters to the Council;
- (2) Monitor issues related to the well-being of student-athletes, including emotional and physical health, personal development, social responsibility, sportsmanship, and ethical conduct;
- (3) Serve in an advisory capacity to student welfare and development programs within the Department of Athletics including, but not limited to SASSO, and SAAB;
- (4) Monitor media coverage and encourage efforts to provide accurate information about student-athletes to the university community and general public; and
- (5) Foster communication about the progress and success of student-athletes to the university community and the general public.

- At ESAW's first meeting of the year on September 27<sup>th</sup> 2018, the committee discussed the issues/topics that members wished to discuss for 2018-2019 so that a schedule of guest speakers could be established.
- On October 25<sup>th</sup> 2018, ESAW was joined by Dr. Jen Carter. Dr. Carter serves as the Lead Sport Psychologist for the Department of Athletics and oversees the mental health services provided to student-athletes. After reviewing with Dr. Carter the services provided to student-athletes as well as the visit volume, the committee felt very positive that student-athletes have ready access to mental health services should the need for those services arrive.
- On November 29<sup>th</sup> 2018, the committee hosted Doug Archie, Associate Athletic Director of Compliance, and his staff. Mr. Archie's team educated members of the committee regarding the breadth of compliance violations that have been encountered over time as well as the measures taken for prevention and management of such incidents. The committee felt that the University and the Department of Athletics was fortunate to have such a vigilant and proactive compliance office.
- There were no ESAW meetings in the months of December 2018 or January 2019.
- On February 26<sup>th</sup> 2019, Doug Calland, Associate Athletic Director of Sport Performance, visited ESAW to review pending changes to the student-athlete substance use policy. Mr. Calland reviewed the pending policy in depth and highlighted that the revised policy is aimed at getting individuals the help they need rather than simply being punitive. The committee felt that the soon to be finalized policy seemed very proactive and reasonable.
- On March 26<sup>th</sup> 2019, ESAW was joined by Sam Silverman. Mr. Silverman is the Design Director for Ohio State football. He addressed the committee regarding BrandU, a program that was created to help student-athletes develop a brand for use after college. The committee was very pleased to learn more about this exciting program that really helps our student-athletes focus on how they want to be viewed by the public.
- On April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019, ESAW held its last meeting of the year where the committee was joined by the Director of OSU's Student-Athlete Support Services Office (SASSO), Derek Cowherd, as well as Kim Doran, Director, Instructional Support Staff, and John Macko, Assistant Director of SASSO and lead of the degree completion program. The committee reviewed the services offered by SASSO in support of student-athletes. The committee found the training that tutors receive to be impressive. The support that the department provides to athletes even after they leave the university to encourage completion of their degree is also exemplary.

In total, the student-athlete support programs that the committee reviewed this year were found to be outstanding and best in class. Indeed, the university as a whole could benefit from the innovative support programs developed by the Department of Athletics.

## **OSU Athletic Council Finance and Facilities Committee Annual Report – 2018-19**

**Submitted by: Mike Hogan, Chair, Finance and Facilities Committee (FiFa)**

### **Committee Members:**

**Faculty** – Ken Lee, Wendy Smooth, Hasan Jeffries, Treva Lindsey, Kisha Radliff, Mike Hogan

**Staff** – Kevin Petrilla

**Students** – Tracy Walterbusch, James Prisco

**Alumni** – Roger Ball, Steve Chappellear

**Ex-Officio** – Joe Odoguardi (Athletics), Brett Scarbrough (Athletics), Kris Devine (Business and Finance)

The role of the Finance and Facilities Committee (FiFa) is to review and make recommendations to the Athletic Council regarding the Department of Athletics budget, facilities, ticketing, and the University Golf Course. During the 2018-19 academic year, six meetings of the committee were conducted in order to fulfil this role.

During the year FiFa addressed the following issues:

- Reviewed and recommended full council approval of the Department of Athletics budget for FY 2019-20
- Reviewed potential impacts which student athlete compensation could have on future Department of Athletics finances
- Evaluated improvements completed at the Schottenstein Center and new facilities construction at the Shoemaker Center and the new Covelli Center
- Approved and recommended full council approval of basketball ticket pricing for 2019-20 season
- Reviewed long term plans of the Department of Athletics for facility construction and maintenance
- Formed an Ad Hoc Committee to work with Enterprise Project staff to design a program for faculty/staff point system calculation which will be compatible with the Workday platform
- Reviewed (but took no action on) the policy for married student access to football and basketball season tickets
- Reviewed and recommended adoption of pricing for 2019 greens fees and membership fees at the university golf course
- Approved and recommended full council approval of football ticket pricing for 2019 season

FiFa would like to commend the Department of Athletics for its incredibly strategic and effective facilities planning. The growth and improvement of athletics facilities on campus has been extraordinary during the past several years.