

**The Ohio State University Athletic Council
Annual Report 2020-2021**

Courtney D. Lynch, PhD MPH, Chairperson

The Athletic Council, a standing committee of the University Senate, establishes and considers policy involving but not limited to: the income and expenditures budget, the schedules for seasonal and post-seasonal play in relation to the effect on student athlete well-being, grants and other financial aid to athletes, student athlete eligibility, student grievance procedures and sportsmanship polices related to athletics, awards to athletes, ticket prices and ticket distribution, and public and campus relations of the athletic program. In addition, the Council also participates with the President in selecting the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR). The Council meets the first Wednesday of every month during the academic year to conduct business.

Athletic Council is comprised of sixteen voting members including: eight regular tenure-track faculty (four elected by Faculty Council and four appointed by the President), two undergraduate students, one graduate student, one professional student, two alumni, and two staff. There are five ex-officio non-voting members, including the Director of Athletics, the Vice President of Student Life, the Faculty Athletics Representative, the Directors of Student Athletics Support Services Office (SASSO), and the President of the Student Athlete Advisory Board.

In the 2020-2021 academic year, Athletic Council had three standing committees. The first standing committee, the Academic Progress and Eligibility Committee (AP&E), is charged with reviewing all regulations concerning intercollegiate eligibility at the university in consultation with the Director of Athletics, the Director of SASSO, and the Associate Director of Athletics Compliance. The committee reviews the academic performance and progress of student athletes and selects the winners of the Big Ten Conference Medal of Honor and Student-Athlete Academic Achievement Award. The Committee is comprised of all eight faculty members and one student member of Athletic Council.

The second standing committee of Athletic Council is the Equity and Student Athlete Well-Being Committee (ESAW). ESAW's charge is to monitor all issues related to student athlete equity and well-being. The Committee serves in an advisory capacity to student welfare and development programs within the Athletic Department and monitors and fosters communication regarding student athletes to the university and general public. The Committee is comprised of four faculty members and two student members of Athletic Council, one being an undergraduate student. Ex-officio members include the Chair of Athletic Council, the Director of Athletics, a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Board, a representative from the Office of Legal Affairs, an Associate Athletic Director, and the FAR.

Athletic Council's final standing committee is the Finance and Facilities Committee (FIFA). FIFA's charge is to conduct an annual review of the proposed Athletic Department budget, to conduct quarterly reviews of departmental financial statements, to review the use and condition of campus athletics facilities, to review and recommend changes to ticket pricing and distribution, and makes recommendations to the Green Committee regarding changes to fees at the University Golf Courses. FIFA is comprised of four faculty members, one staff member, one alumni council representative, and two students. Ex officio members include assistant athletics directors as appointed by the Director of Athletics and a representative from the Office of University Resource Planning and Institutional Analysis.

Summary of Athletic Council Meetings

Athletic Council conducted following business at meetings during the 2020-2021 academic year.

October 7, 2020 - Dr. James Borchers presented a COVID-19 update from the Big Ten Medical Subcommittee and answered questions from council members. Gene Smith provided an update on the impact of COVID-19 on the Athletic Department, including the impact on student athletes and the departmental budget.

November 4, 2020 – President Johnson visited with council. She shared her vision for the university and took questions from council members. Derek Cowherd, Director of SASSO, provided a brief history of the Meichelle Willes Academic Award and announced the winners: Daria Torba and Shaun Wade.

December 2, 2020 – Gene Smith provided a Big Ten scheduling update and described plans for modernization of the Buckeye Club. John Davidson, FAR, presented on the graduation success rate (GSR) and the federal graduation rate (FGR) and how it has tracked over time as to sport, gender, and race.

January 6, 2021 - Dr. Jim Borchers and Angie Beisner presented on concussion management. They reviewed standards of concussion care, including the OSU protocol, and responded to questions. Derek Cowherd, Director of SASSO, reviewed fall semester academic successes.

February 3, 2021 - Mike Carrell, Chief of Staff for the Office of Student Academic Success, stated that Meg Daly would chair the search committee for the Director for Student Athlete Support Services position. Brett Scarbrough reviewed football ticket pricing plans for 2022. Athletic Council approved the plan. Mr., Scarbrough shared that there will be no price increase for 2021-22 for Men's Basketball tickets or OSU golf course memberships.

March 3, 2021 - Kevin McGuff, Head Coach of Women's Basketball, and Nadine Muzerall, Head Coach of Women's Ice Hockey, spoke to council on their challenges with coaching their

teams during the pandemic. Gene Smith shared that they expect 182 graduates this spring. Among those students, 119 have secured employment or will go to graduate school.

April 7, 2021 - CJ Walker from Men's Basketball and Britten Bowen from Track and Field were given the Miechelle Willis Academic Achievement Award. John Davidson, FAR, reported that he has been named to the NCAA Task Force on Standardized Testing. Gene Smith shared plans for the spring game. There will be less than 20,000 fans permitted to attend.

May 26, 2021 - Gene Smith shared points of pride with athletic council and stated that he is very happy with the achievements of our student-athletes with 799 scholar athletes this year. Athletic Council reviewed and approved the FY22 Athletic Department budget. Keely Croxton described her participation on the Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Misconduct, a broader university committee formed to conduct an attorney-client privileged review related to issues surrounding sexual misconduct and to recommend potential areas for improvement. The committee thoroughly reviewed Athletics' and the University's policies and procedures. The committee is currently finalizing its assessment and will present its recommendations to the Office of Legal Affairs so that the Office of Legal Affairs can provide legal advice to the University.

Summary of Committee Work

Academic Progress and Eligibility Committee (AP&E)

November 4, 2020 - Matt Bartlebaugh presented about the history and important elements of the Academic Stress Test. We also learned about the candidates for the Miechelle Willis Student Athlete Academic Achievement Award from Derek Cowherd (of SASSO).

December 2, 2020 - John Davidson presented on the GSR and FGR and how it has tracked over time with regard to sport, gender, and race.

January 6, 2021 - The committee reviewed missed class time forms from MVB, WVB, WBB, and MGYM; all were Level 1. Matt Barlebaugh revisited the Academic Stress Test focusing on academic risks and areas for consideration for the 'risk refresh'. Kim Doran and Vicki Melnick discussed peer tutoring.

February 3, 2021- The committee reviewed missed class time forms and discussed COVID-19 testing for the student-athletes.

March 3, 2021 - The committee reviewed missed class time and mitigation forms (when applicable) for Men's Lacrosse (Level 1), Baseball (Level 2), and Softball (Level 2). The committee voted to approve the mitigation plans for Baseball and Softball. Janine Oman and John Davidson, FAR, also spoke briefly about how changes made during COVID-19 may

impact future changes, specifically noting costs (e.g., travel) and seasons (e.g., length) as possible areas that may come up for discussion.

April 7, 2021 - The committee reviewed nominations and voted on the of Big Ten Postgraduate Scholarship award male and female candidates.

May 5, 2021 - The committee reviewed nominations and voted on the Big Ten Medal of Honor award male and female winners.

May 19, 2021 - At the request of the FAR, John Davidson, the AP&E committee held a special meeting to discuss standardized tests and OSU athletics. He contextualized this information as it relates to NCAA Initial eligibility and financial aid.

Equity and Student Athlete Well-Being Committee (ESAW)

October 20, 2020 - The guest speaker for this meeting was Shaun Richard, Senior Associate Athletic Director, Sports Administration, OSU Athletics Department. Shaun explained the Buckeye Inclusion program, including its mission to provide quality programs that facilitate inclusive and shared experiences for student-athletes and that all who participate feel safe and welcome. A team of eight coaches, staff, students, etc. lead this important campaign that includes Buckeye Pride (workshops, discussion of issues), programs on racial quality and campus resources to help ensure safety and wellness for student-athletes. Buckeye Inclusion also offers student-athletes help with voting (understanding the issues vs. just voting for people) and training for coaches and staff about biases. The committee learned how student-athletes are getting support with regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, etc., plus access to many resources and staff to assist across the campus to assist with their individual and team needs.

November 17, 2020 - Candice Williams, Athletics Department counselor, updated the committee on the support student athletes are receiving from Athletics Department staff and the impact COVID-19 has had on the Department of Athletics (including the students). A panel of students (Emily Nothnagle and Victoria Carlson) spoke on how COVID impacted their own personal performance and that of their teammates. The uncertainty of whether/when their respective sports would return to practice and competition was undetermined, but hopeful at that time. The women shared about their roles as peer educators and the various programs shared with peer student-athletes to support their emotional and mental health and well-being. The committee recognized the dedication of the sports psychology staff and the impact that was being created for student-athletes during the pandemic.

January 19, 2021 - Maddy McIntyre, Athletics Department counselor and former student-athlete, presented information about The Eugene D. Smith Leadership Institute which provides leadership, character and career development for all Ohio State student-athletes in order to best prepare them for life after graduation. Some of the programs shared were *Dress to Impress*

(developing four-year career plan, resumes, cover letters, etc.), Buckeye Futures (networking event connecting industry/graduate program professionals with student-athletes to share journeys, passions and career opportunities), Buckeye Road Trip (exploring various career paths), and *Bucks Go Pro 1.0* and *2.0* (paid internship programs). A panel of student-athletes (Mitch Bergman and Aziza Ayoub) shared their personal experiences with the various programs and how they – as counselor volunteers – are helping other student-athletes.

February 16, 2021 - The vision of SASSO is to provide comprehensive academic support services designed to meet the needs of the student-athlete population while promoting a holistic approach to education. SASSO provides programs and services that promote degree attainment and comprehensive personal development. SASSO staff members, Kim Doran and Vicki Melnick, provided the committee with an overview of SASSO's foundation, outreach and accomplishments. The information was extensive and impressive making Ohio State's program one of the top in the nation. Mike Carrell, Interim Director, shared the transition plan toward a new Director and the search process.

March 16, 2021 - Three Athletic Department staff members, Carey Hoyt, Doug Archie and Danielle Dalusio, provided an introduction and update for issues related to Name-Image-Likeness. From the initial case (O'Bannon vs. NCAA), the committee learned that these discussions were started to support to athletes with financial support beyond room and board and then to include things like transportation, toiletries, social expenses and other miscellaneous expenses (at OSU this amounts to about \$4200 - \$4600 per year). On July 1, 2021, the State of Florida will allow athletes to earn additional monies, but the NCAA is contradicting this adjustment with the belief that student-athletes need to be amateur athletes. Discussions will continue at Ohio State and other institutions as more information becomes available.

April 20, 2021 - Athletic Department staff members, Shaun Richard, Dan Wallenberg, and Monique Bowman, led a discussion on social media education and the response protocol if there are issues. The discussion was brought to light by the recent social media attacks on an OSU student-athlete (basketball player). The team shared the immediate response by staff members with/for the student-athlete (educational perspective) and the interaction with the media. Additional information on protocols were also sent to coaches. The Athletics Department strives to equip players with tools to handle such situations. Since the impact of NIL are likely to become more of an issue in the future, these response protocols will be a part of the training and preparation for student-athletes and coaches in the future, including how to represent themselves as a team for the university and building their brand and the OSU brand. The committee learned how student-athletes are supported in these situations and how a team of Athletics Department staff members are involved when something like this happens. This situation was an opportunity to make a "play book" so the Athletic Department staff member response teams and coaches are better prepared to handle future challenges.

Finance and Facilities Committee (FIFA)

The Finance and Facilities Committee reviews and makes recommendations to the Athletic Council regarding the Department of Athletics' budget, reviews use /condition and modification of facilities, reviews and recommends changes in ticketing, and reviews proposals and fees regarding the University Golf Course. Presenters at FIFA meetings this year included: Brett Scarbrough, Associate AD Ticketing and Premium Seating; Jordan Birkemeier, (Associate AD, Annual giving and Buckeye Club; Joe Odoguardi, Executive Associate AD, Finance / CFO; Mike Penner, Executive Associate AD, Internal Operations; and Marc Lucas, General Manager, OSU Golf Club.

During the course of the 2020-2021 academic year, FIFA considered the following issues. The committee has extensive discussions about the economic impact of COVID-19 on the department. The committee reviewed the Department of Athletics budgets for FY20-22. Given the impact of COVID-19, the Athletics department faces a significant deficit that they are working to manage. The Athletics department began the year projecting a \$107M deficit. With the return of the previously cancelled football season, the new deficit projections came in around \$62M. Additionally, TV and sponsorship revenue along with cost cutting measures have lowered the projected budget deficit to \$50M or better currently.

The committee reviewed and approved the new Buckeye Club modernization plan for stadium seating and ticketing. The Athletic Department has divided the stadium into six zones plus student seating. Zones 1-5 in the stadium now require a per-seat contribution to purchase tickets in those designated sections. More detailed information regarding the Buckeye Club modernization plan can be found elsewhere: <https://ohiostatebuckeyes.com/tickets/seat-selection-process-2022/>

The committee reviewed the plan for facility construction, maintenance, and improvements. The Ty Tucker tennis facility is completed. The Bill Davis stadium locker room upgrade is completed. They are working to demolish the rest of Buckeye Village, add fields for practices and camps, add Field hockey press box, and team space. The department is working to expand and renovate Woody Hayes facility for more medical training and hydrotherapy. The Lacrosse stadium project is in progress. The Women's ice Hockey facility study is in process. Finally, the committee reviewed Golf Club operations and fees. The committee approved an increase in initiation fee for members on-boarded from the Golf Club waitlist. Membership is capped at 850 and there are currently 350 on the waitlist. The committee approved the recommended pricing for 2022 greens fees. The Golf Club has done very well financially this past year, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,

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