

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY SENATE ANNUAL REPORT COVER SHEET

Executive Summary

Period: 2023-2024

Current Committee Chair: Jennifer Cheavens

Incoming Committee Chair: Kristin Stanford

Committee Members: Brian Turner, Chris Zirkle, Nicole Kraft, WC Benton, Sara Cole, Terrence Hinton, Tom Gessells, Collen Gilger, Asia Doss, Hanna Gottschalk, Katie Conner, Lindsay Logue, Charlie McDermott, Jordan Kalthoff

Number of Meetings: 9 Athletic Council Meetings (8 in Columbus, 1 in Dallas), 6 AP&E Meetings, 7 ESAW Meetings, 7 FiFa Meetings

Do you have Bylaws? Yes, and they were updated this year. **If yes please Attach:** Attached

Briefly describe the key accomplishments of your committee this year:

The Athletic Council (AC) tackled a number of important and ongoing issues this year. First, we worked closely with Athletics leadership to prepare for two major transitions: (1) the retirement of Gene Smith after 19 years of service as the Athletic Director (AD) and (2) the expansion of the Big 10 to include four West Coast schools. First, individual members of the AC and the AC as a whole have been meeting with the incoming AD, Ross Bjork, to facilitate a smooth transition and try to encourage a continuation of the excellent relationship that the AC has enjoyed with Gene Smith. Gene Smith has demonstrated commitment to student athlete academic success in myriad ways and it is important that the AC continue to work with the AD to sustain the programming and culture that protect this commitment. Second, we worked with leadership of Athletics to anticipate the ways in which the expansion of the Big 10 will affect student athletes, particularly how increased travel demands for some teams might impact mental health and well-being as well as missed class time. Third, we continued to discuss how several high-profile legal cases and changes to the Name Image Likelihood (NIL) rules influence the experience of student athletes; we paid particular attention to how these changes influence student athlete well-being, equity and inclusion, and academic performance in addition to how Athletics is impacted (e.g., financially, personnel, stress on coaching staffs). Further, we also discussed the challenges associated with the transfer portal and increased years of eligibility resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic; specifically, the transfer portal and increased years of eligibility put stress on the system for making admissions decisions, particularly for the Spring semester and for graduate programs.

Please reflect on the goals set for this committee identified in the prior Annual Review and describe how they were addressed: I don't have access to the goals specifically identified in this paperwork by the last Chair. I will be sure to pass this paperwork on to the incoming Chair. However, I worked closely with the outgoing Chair, Judy Villard, and am aware of the goals that were prioritized during her leadership. In the 2022 - 2023 academic year, the AC focused on increasing engagement of the committee and developing strong working relationships between AC and Athletics. Coming out of the stay-at-home orders from the pandemic, it was important for the committee to develop a sense of community and return to in-person work where in-depth discussions could take place. We were quite effective in moving toward these goals this year. All AC meetings and 2 of the 3 subcommittees met in person this year and there

were a number of opportunities for AC members to bring issues to the group. Attendance at AC meetings, particularly by student members, was more variable than in years past and I have discussed with the incoming Executive Committee the need to continue to encourage participation and engagement.

Please indicate key goals this committee wants to accomplish in 2024-2025.

Given the number of changes that are occurring in the Athletics landscape, both locally and nationally, it will be important that the AC maintain flexibility in being responsive to issues as they arise. Within the context of this need for flexibility, there are three main goals for the AC in the coming year. First, the AC, and specifically AP&E, will continue to monitor missed class time and how schedules are impacted with the addition of the West Coast teams. Second, the AC will continue to prioritize a focus on student-athlete mental health and well-being. Third, the AC will continue to work with Athletics to create conditions for student athlete success, both on and off the field, balanced with optimal financial functioning which allows Athletics to support student-athletes.

Did you consult with any other Senate Committees? Are there other committees with which you feel this committee should connect in 2024-2025?

We did not consult with any other Senate Committees in 2023 – 2024; however, we consulted extensively with a number of offices within Athletics. In the future, it might be use

Meetings (# or Dates)	Number in attendance	Guests (#)	Names
September 6	15 AC + 11 Ex Officio and Athletics	2	Tyler Carpenter, Josh Hagen
October 4	15 AC + 7 Ex Officio and Athletics	2	Kevin Griffin, Xen Riggs
November 1	11 AC + 8 Ex Officio and Athletics	4	Fallon Morella, Jen Oldenburg, Rylee Rader, Shawn Wagner
December 6	12 AC + 11 Ex Officio and Athletics	1	Logan Hittle
December 29	13 AC + 7 Ex Officio and Athletics	1	Interim President Mohler
February 7	15 AC + 7 Ex Officio and Athletics	1	Jamey Houle
March 6	15 AC + 9 Ex Officio and Athletics	7	Ari Allen, Cullen Brown, Kaitlin Davis, Nyah Funderburke, Nick Myers, Alex Sommer, Alexa Webb
April 3	11 AC + 6 Ex Officio and Athletics	7	Panagiota Charalampous, McKenzie Hauswirth, J. Jagers, Jesse Mendez, Emil Milev, Riya Salian, Makenna Webster
May 1	14 AC + 6 Ex Officio and Athletics	0	