

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY SENATE ANNUAL REPORT FORM

Executive Summary

Period: 2024-2025

Current Committee Chair: Kristin I. Stanford, PhD

Incoming Committee Chair: Nicole Kraft, EdD

Committee Members: Chris Zirkle, Nicole Kraft, Terrance Hinton, Kevin McClatchy, WC Benton, Sarah Cole, Simone Drake, Colleen Gilger, Tom Gessells, Asia Doss, Hanna Gottschalk, Sahana Prabhu, Katie Conner, Justin Robinson, Madison Mason

Number of Meetings: 9

Do you have Bylaws? Yes

If yes, please attach:

Briefly describe the key accomplishments of your committee this year:

The Athletic Council (AC) tackled a number of important and ongoing issues this year. We worked closely with Athletic Director Ross Bjork and Athletics leadership to understand how Project 36, the House Settlement, and updates to the Name Image Likeness (NIL) and how these are affecting OSU and student athletes. Second, we continued to discuss and follow how the expansion of the Big 10 is affecting student athletes, particularly with regard to increased travel demands for some teams and how that may impact mental health and well-being of student athletes, as well as missed class time. 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). Specific topics covered at our Equity and Student-Athlete Wellness (ESAW) committee included sports psychology programming for student athletes, assistance and education related to gambling, the Next Gen Program, nutrition, wellness of the student-athlete during the transfer process, and Team Works, a program used to keep student athletes organized and scheduled. 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. Further, at our Academic Progress and Eligibility (AP&E) subcommittee meetings, we spent a great deal of time discussing the athlete stress test and challenges to student athletes with regard to the transfer portal.

Please reflect on the goals set for this committee identified in the prior Annual Review and describe how they were addressed: The goals set for this year were for the AC to maintain flexibility in being responsive to issues as they arise.

Specifically, 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. In reflection, we have been successful in each of these goals. The athletic department and sport ADs did an exceptional job in regulating missed class time and travel impact to each individual team; the stress tests and continued support from sport psychology emphasize the department's focus on student-athlete well-being; and we have continued to support Athletics to create conditions for student athlete success, both on and off the field.

Please indicate key goals that you would like to accomplish in 2025-2026. As the Athletics landscape continues to change both locally and nationally, accompanied by other changes in higher education at both the local and national level, 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 2025-2026?

We did not consult with any other Senate Committees in 2024 – 2025; however, we consulted extensively with a number of offices within Athletics.

Meetings (# or Dates)	Number	Guests (#)	Names
September 4, 2024	14 + 10 ex officio and athletics	0	
October 2, 2024	15 + 8 ex officio and athletics	0	
November 6, 2024	15 + 7 ex officio and athletics	5	Taylor Curran, Sasha Grubich, Rosalind Joseph, Zamesha Myle, Shawn Wagner
December 4, 2024	11 + 5 ex officio and athletics	3	Logan Hittle, Monica Moll, Brooke Shields
December 31, 2024	13 + 3 ex officio and athletics	1	President Ted Carter
February 5, 2025	14 + 5 ex officio and athletics	2	Tyler Carpenter, Dan Cencer
March 5, 2025	13 + 6 ex officio and athletics	6	Sasha Grubich, Meghan McCann, Jennifer Oldenberg, Tyler Pettorini, Shawn Swearingen, Shawn Wagner
April 2, 2025	14 + 4 ex officio and athletics	3	Sonny Styles, Ellie Wagner, Maddy Yuzwa
May 7, 2025	8 + 6 ex officio and athletics	0	