

## **Athletic Council Annual Report 2017-18**

Philip T. Diaz - Chair

### **Overview**

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. The Council meets monthly during the fall and spring semesters year with members of the Athletic Department, Student Athletic Support Service Office (SASSO), the Faculty Athletic Representative and the president of the Student Athlete Advisory Board. 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).

There were a number of issues addressed by the full Council this year:

- The Council reviewed and discussed academic reports including graduation rates and academic trends. The overall academic preparedness and performance for student athletes continues to improve.
- The Council reviewed and discussed the Institutional Control draft developed by the Office of Compliance. The Council felt the policies were appropriate and well considered.
- Title IX compliance procedures were reviewed and the Council provided input regarding proposed amendments to current procedures. Overall the Council felt that the Institution's policies regarding title IX were robust.
- The Council reviewed and provided comments on ongoing capital projects for the athletic department.
- The Council reviewed and discussed human resources considerations in the Athletic Department. There was specific attention directed at the overall demographics of athletic department staff.
- The Council had a vigorous discussion regarding the role of the student athlete and student athlete expression in addressing issues pertaining to social justice.
- Over the course of the year, there were multiple discussions regarding membership of the Council with particular discussion involving the inclusion of non-tenure track faculty on Athletic Council. Ultimately, the Council voted to include up to two non-tenure track faculty. Other issues regarding membership, including the ideal number of staff and alumni remain under discussion. There are plans for a formal proposal to the Senate

during the 2018-19 academic year. This proposal will address the inclusion of non-tenure track faculty and the overall size and constituency of Athletic Council.

*Specific issues addressed by the standing committees are as follows:*

AP&E - Wendy Smooth, Chair

AP&E reviews student athlete academic issues and all regulations concerning intercollegiate eligibility at Ohio State. The committee works to ensure that local regulations conform to or exceed the standards of the Big Ten Conference and the NCAA.

AP&E addressed a number of issues this year:

- AP&E reviewed team and student missed class time reports and edited/approved mitigation plans to assure that student-athletes have ample time to address their course work while away from school.
- AP&E reviewed and revised the coaches' reporting template to better communicate how teams are addressing student-athlete's missed class time, including greater attention to time used on the road for study hall and time off following travel. There was concern that while the AP&E is monitoring the completion of the forms, it is not sufficiently evaluating the methods coaches and teams use to address missed class time. Therefore, the committee discussed doing research on the tools and procedures coaches and teams used to mitigate missed class times. This research could enhance understanding of the effectiveness of current mitigation plans and could facilitate development of best practice models.
- The committee reviewed, edited and approved individual student-athletes' academic recovery plans and student athletes' academic mitigation plans, for those students with NCAA eligibility issues related to academic performance.
- AP&E received an updated version of the Academic Stress Test Plan from the Athletics' Office of Compliance, which regularly collects data on areas of academic markers, patterns, and trends related to the overall academic experience of our student- athletes. The Academic Stress Test Plan focuses on: student-athlete preparedness upon entering the university; assessing student-athlete outcomes and tracking "student-athlete success;" maintaining independence between university units and Athletics. This year, the committee reviewed the plan with the following issues guiding points of inquiry:
  - Awareness of issues, trends, and data at OSU that compliance should track
  - Emerging trends, practices in higher education that might make student athletes vulnerable on the main issue areas covered by the stress test

-Reviewing the existing metrics and their operationalization to determine if the measures are adequately capturing data

The committee made a series of recommendations to enhance the plan. In reviewing the existing data presented from the year, AP&E found no areas of particular weakness.

- AP&E selected recipients for the Michelle Willis Academic Achievement Award, which recognizes student athletes who have overcome obstacles to achieve academic success.
- 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. This year, prior to voting, the faculty participated in an information session with sports ADs to better understand the significance of the various athletic honors the candidates received. Having this review was viewed as a success and presented an opportunity for more informed voting.

ESAW - Ken Lee, Chair

ESAW monitors issues of equity and well-being related to student-athletes, serves in an advisory capacity to student welfare and development programs in the department, encourages efforts to provide accurate information about student-athletes to the university community and general public and fosters communication about the progress and success of student-athletes to the university community and the general public.

ESAW addressed a number of issues this year:

- ESAW addressed popular media coverage and athletics communications with Dan Wallenberg, Associate AD Communications.
- ESAW had a very timely and interesting conversation with Ryan Stamper, Director of Player Development, regarding the student athlete role in social justice. ESAW felt that Ohio State is handling this emotional and political issue properly.
- ESAW reviewed the current knowledge of sport nutrition and the Athletic Department's nutrition practices and procedures with Lead Sports Dietician, Sarah Wick. There was also a specific discussion regarding the potential merits of keto diets for athletes with Professor Jeff Volek.
- ESAW reviewed the current knowledge of sport recovery and training with Doug Calland MS, ATC, Associate AD for Sport Performance.
- ESAW reviewed evolving NCAA transfer policies and issues with Matt Bartlebaugh and Danie Daluision.
- The Committee addressed how Title IX affects athletes. Kellie Brennan and Janine Oman facilitated these discussions. The discussions involved an update on federal guidelines and the distinction of preponderance of evidence versus clear and convincing

evidence. ESAW supported the University's position that incidents of sexual misconduct in collegiate athletics are unacceptable as is the allegation that this was under-reported in the past.

FiFa – Michael Hogan, Chair

FiFa reviews and make recommendations to the Athletic Council regarding the Department of Athletics budget, facilities, ticketing, and the University Golf Course.

FiFa addressed the following issues this year:

- The Committee reviewed and recommended adoption of the Department of Athletics budget for FY 2018-19.
- FiFa evaluated improvements completed at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center
- FiFa learned about the comprehensive nature of the department's Fan Experience program.
- The Committee recommended approval of basketball ticket pricing structure for 2018-19 season.
- FiFa revised and recommended approval of revised point system for faculty and staff tickets for football and basketball.
- The Committee reviewed (twice) progress of athletics facilities improvement and construction projects.
- The Committee reviewed alcohol-related arrests and ejections statistics for 2017 and 2018 football seasons.
- The adequacy of locker room facilities (primarily for revenue sports) as compared to Big Ten peer institutions was reviewed.
- FiFa reviewed and recommended adoption of pricing for 2018 greens fees and membership fees at the university golf course.
- FiFa approved and recommended approval of football ticket pricing for 2018.

FiFa also identified some early goals for the committee for the 2018-19 academic year, including:

- Review recently completed facility improvements at the Schottenstein Center
- Evaluate facility constraints at Steelwood Training Facility

- Evaluate challenges which the institution's Enterprise Project (Workday) will create for the current faculty/staff points system for football and basketball ticketing