

Senate Athletic Committee
September 30, 2019

Present: Floyd, Schieber (for Wolff), Brown, Alexander, Bass, Herda, Crawford, Twombly, Abernathy, Phillips, Ginavan-Hayes, Williams

Absent: Reed, Buskirk

Following introductions, Susan Williams provided an overview of the role of the Senate Athletic Committee and of her role as the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR). In response to last year's Athletic Committee interest in athlete-transfers, Susan reported that legislation is being considered to remove the requirement that graduate transfers with remaining eligibility be degree seeking students.

The committee reviewed its specific charges for 2019-20 to monitor:

- a. to current proposals by NCAA with respect to academic misconduct.
- b. the number of transfer athletes, particularly into the football program. Many of these students struggle academically and require substantial academic support.
- c. the trend among athletes of pursuing the general liberal arts and sciences degree. This degree has become an increasingly popular choice for student athletes. For example, a total of 15 student athletes were identified as pursuing this degree in Fall 2013. This number had nearly tripled to 42 in Fall of 2017. Fully 40% of the total general LA&S degree seekers in Fall 2017 were athletes. Although this degree provides flexibility for student athletes, especially transfers, a concern was noted about whether this generic degree provides "career value" for athletes.
- d. The experience of student athletes, KAI staff, and faculty with online courses and degrees.

At a later meeting, Susan Williams and Paul Buskirk will share numbers on student-athlete academic misconduct.

There seemed to be consensus that the committee would like to begin with "c", the number of athletes pursuing the general liberal arts and sciences degree. One concern raised is why students pursuing this degree are not able to record certificates or minors on their transcripts.

Interest in exploring adequacy of scholarships for student-athletes. Beth Shank was recommended as the person to invite to inform us about scholarships. Additionally, issues surrounding online classes will be explored.

For our next meeting on November 4th, Paul Buskirk; Holly Storkel, Associate Dean for Academic Innovation and Student Success in CLAS; and Samantha Montague, Associate Director of College Outreach & Online Programs, will attend to provide an overview of student-athletes and the general liberal arts and sciences degree. **Meeting is at 3 in the Anderson West Conference Room (same place as last meeting).**