

Athletic Committee Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2018

Attendees: Valdez, Anderson, Alexander, Buskirk, Herda, Twombly, Reed, Phillips, Diepenbrock, Robben, and Bermel. Absent: Schaefer and Thompson, Misenhelter on family leave.

Discussion of proposed charges:

There was some discussion of proposed charge #3 regarding compliance

Proposed Standing Charge #3: Receive and review a report from KAI and the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) on KU and KAI efforts to ensure compliance with University, Big XII, NCAA rules, and Federal law. **This report will include updates on programs and efforts designed to ensure that the KU community understands compliance and also updates on NCAA and federal rules affecting compliance. (Added based on our discussion).**

The Athletic Committee will receive this report, will meet to review the report with the appropriate representatives of KAI, and will make recommendations based on its review as the Committee deems necessary.

Current Standing Charge # 3: Help ensure KU maintains athletic compliance with University, Big XII and NCAA rules and Federal law.

- a. *Review educational programs and communication strategies to ensure the KU community better understands the combined responsibility for compliance.*
- b. *Review and summarize KAI reports identifying athletic compliance parameters including but not limited to recruiting practices and university admissions.*
- c. *Review KU and KAI policies and procedures on drug testing, diversity and sexual harassment including Title IX compliance, and alcohol use in matters of sexual assault reporting. (Included in proposed charge #2)*

Suzanne Valdez (Interim FAR) noted that given the fluid landscape of college athletics due to high profile cases such as the death of a football player at University of Maryland and resulting reinstatement and then firing of the head coach, and the “pay for play” trials of Adidas officials, compliance may change significantly during this academic year. What can be reported in the spring is unknown at this time. The committee may choose to invite David Reed, Senior Associate Athletics Director – Compliance & Student Services to speak.

In response to a question about the Athletic Committee’s role in the search for a new football coach, Suzanne Valdez will ask the Athletic Director if the University Senate Athletic Committee will have input into the decision and will also communicate our concern that the next coach be a person of upstanding character with no history of abuse.

The remainder of the meeting was given over to Paul Buskirk, Associate Athletics Director – Student Athlete Support Services, who provided a report on student athlete academic standing. Paul’s written report is attached to these minutes.

According to the reports provided, KU student athletes are doing well and graduating at very nearly the same rates, as non-athletes.

He drew attention to several concerns and issues:

1. The increasing number of transfers, particularly into the football program. Many of these students struggle academically and require substantial academic support.
2. Committee member Chris Anderson raised the issue of the high number of person hours incurred by the academic units to provide necessary information about student academic progress to KAI. This might be a function for which KAI might be billed.
3. The relatively new general degree in Liberal Arts and Science is beginning to draw a significant number of student athlete majors. 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.

These issues are ones that the Athletic Committee may want to keep an eye on for the future.

The committee’s next meeting is Monday, December 3 at 10:30 in 250 Strong Hall (Provost’s Conference Room). Jane Fulton, Senior Associate Athletics Director – Student Athlete Development, will speak to Charge #2, the student athlete experience.