

Athletic Committee Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2018

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

Jane Fulton, Senior Associate Athletics Director – Student Athlete Development made a presentation addressing Charge #2 – the premier student athlete experience. The attached handout describes all of the initiatives undertaken in 2017-2018, currently ongoing, or planned by Kansas Athletics. These initiatives include: a buddy program for international student athletes and working with Athlete Ally to strengthen support for LGBTQ athletes. Notably, KAI recently hired a licensed social worker to lead mental health efforts for student athletes. In addition to programming, the social worker can direct athletes to services that best meet their needs if the appropriate services do not exist in KAI.

Considerable discussion ensued about the NCAA's new rules on time student athletes can devote to required activities. One of the activities most significantly affected is community service activities. Athletes are no longer able to do service activities on their "day off." Consequently, KAI has worked creatively with the Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence to integrate service activities into existing practice time. All "after hours" activities must be voluntary.

Some conversation ensued around the unintended consequence that the existence of such a rich array of services within KAI results in athletes being isolated from the larger campus. Various suggestions were made for how to address this phenomenon. One includes inviting Jane Fulton to address University Senate.

The committee's next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 4 at 10:30. Nicole Corcoran, Senior Associate Athletics Director – Senior Woman Administrator will address Charge #3 – Title IX and compliance. Suzanne Valdez returns as chair in the spring semester.