

Senate Athletic Committee Final Report, 2022-2023

Committee Membership

Jordan Bass (Chair)

Susan Williams (Ex Officio FAR)

Paul Buskirk (Ex Officio representing Kansas Athletics)

Ryan King (Ex Officio representing Kansas Athletics)

Lisa Bergeron

Derek Reed

Evan Riggs

Megan Greene

Scott Harris

Kelly Banks

Florence DiGennaro Reed

Brett Bricker

Kirby Boehm (Student Member)

Luke Parker (Student Member)

The committee's specific charges for 2022-2023 included:

1. Monitor the continued impact of Name-Image-Likeness and the ways in which the university should be involved.
2. Address mental health and well-being of student-athletes.
3. Monitor the time commitments placed on student-athletes.
4. Consider the future of college athletics – specifically the impact of being left out of a “super” conference or league would have on the university prestige and enrollment.
5. Continued monitoring of the academic success of student-athletes – specifically as the transfer portal grows.
6. Consider the impact of the 2022 Men’s Basketball National Championship on the university (enrollment, fundraising, etc.) and ways the university did use/or could use it to benefit the university community.
7. Monitor any legislative action taken by the Kansas Legislature to discriminate against transgender athletes in college athletics. Consider any necessary supportive measures.

Summary of Meetings

The 2022-2023 Athletic Advisory Committee met multiple times during the 2022-2023 academic year. The committee met both in-person and via Zoom and candidly had low participation throughout the year. This year, the committee met with both members of the administration at KU Athletics and student-athletes at KU. The major accomplishment of the committee this year was spearheaded by Dr. Susan Williams. For the past couple years, Dr. Williams and the committee have been crafting and pushing an excused absence policy on campus for students that miss class for things like athletic events, debate competitions, and other competitions. This policy was finally passed and will be implemented at KU.

Additionally, the committee heard a report from Ryan King on the academic progress of student-athletes at KU. We heard about the struggles that the transfer portal has created for academic counselors and student-athletes but were very impressed with the systems put in place by KAI to maintain academic standards. Additionally, the committee met with members of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. The athletes noted challenges with time management but largely felt the resources were in place at KU to support their needs.

Recommended Charges for 2023-2024 Academic Year

1. The continued impact of Name-Image-Likeness and the ways in which the university should be involved – specifically at it applies to time constraints placed on student-athletes
2. Mental health and well-being of student-athletes
3. Continuing to monitor the changing landscape of college athletics – specifically the impact being left out of a major conference would have on the university prestige and enrollment
4. Continued monitoring of the academic success of student-athletes – specifically as the transfer portal continues to facilitate movement between schools
5. Explore ways the university could be integrated into the facility improvements on campus – specifically the proposed renovations of the football stadium