2019-2020 Annual Summary of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee

Chair: Sandra Nelson, College of Education
Chair Elect: TBA

Members: Rebecca Childs (College of Humanities and Fine Arts), Dianne Mark (College of Education), Colleen McGlone (Gupta College of Science), Leann Mischel (College of Business), Mark Mitchell (Faculty Representative to the NCAA), Agatha O’Brien Gayes (HTC Honors College and Center for Interdisciplinary Studies) and Sandra Nelson (College of Education, but the representative for Kimbel Library).

Ex Officio Members: Matt Hogue (Athletics Director), Jared Owen (Financial Aid Office), Cari Rosiek (Senior Woman Administrator), Frankie Weeks (Associate Athletic Director for Academics), Tracy Keller (Associate Athletics Director, Student-Athlete Academic Services), Kayla Johnson (E. Assistant Director of Compliance, Administration & Assessment, Admissions & Merit Awards) and Cassidy Smith (Student Athlete), Keishaun Limehouse (Student Athlete).

Administration Assistant Recorder: Melissa Todd (Administrative Coordinator Athletics Office)

Meetings Dates: Five meetings were held on the following dates - September 25, October 30, December 4, January 22, and February 19. The meeting in November 2019 was planned but rescheduled to December 4 due to the absence of Matt Hogue; meetings were planned but cancelled on March 18 and April 15 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With faculty expectations to move classes online it was decided that a meeting was not necessary.

Guest Speakers: The following individuals attended the committee meetings:
Steven Loeswick, Head Women’s Beach Volleyball Coach (October 30, 2019)
Jamieson Bilella, Vice President of University Marketing and Communication (February 22, 2020)

Summary of Committee Discussions: Meetings throughout the year consisted of regular updates by Matt Hogue and Cari Rosiek regarding topics such as:

1) The fencing along Hwy 544 was only temporary during the football season to protect the premium parking integrity,
2) The ESPN Bowl Game was confirmed for December 2020,
3) The NCAA Board of Governors cleared the path to expedite modernization of Name, Imaged and Likeness (NIL) policies by January 2021 if not sooner.

Notable CCU Athletic accomplishments included the following:
1) Volleyball had a successful season winning the Sun Belt Conference’s East Division,
2) Men’s Soccer won the Sun Belt conference tournament, Cross Country’s Nadeel Wildschutt was named the Sun Belt’s Men’s individual,
3) Nadeel and Adrian Wildschutt had solid finishes at the NCAA Regionals and National Championships,
4) Both basketball teams made it into conference play
5) Women’s basketball team finishing in first place in the league, with a record setting 51-point game by DJ Williams.

6) Sadly, Coastal lost in the second overtime in the conference final. Finally, it was noted that in 2021-22 women’s lacrosse will be moved to the Southern Conference.

During the 2019-2020 academic year the committee revisited its role as a faculty senate committee. Committee members discussed ways for them to advocate on behalf of athletics to faculty, but it was also mentioned that equally important was for committee members to advocate on behalf of faculty to athletics. Specific areas mentioned were scheduling, team travel and class absences.

Follow up suggestions were made to:
1) Review scheduling of classes for athletes and possibly more communication with coaches on practice times and travel dates
2) Determine the number of current faculty who serve in the Faculty Associates program.

After the first two meetings discussing what could be accomplished during the academic year, it was decided that the state of the Faculty Associates Program was going to be the focus of the committee for the 2019-20 academic year. From the previous year, Dr. Mitchell had reported that the Faculty Associates program had a lower than expected response from a call for faculty to serve in this position. It was also mentioned that the timing of the call for faculty to participate may have been problematic due to Hurricane Florence.

Data presented at the meeting indicated that since 2018 to 2020, only eight of the sixteen sports on campus currently have a faculty representative. It was noted that all faculty associates would be rotating off the program at the end of this academic year. Dr. Mitchell gave a detailed report on the history of the program, application process, role and term of service for those serving in the position. Numerous suggestions were made in order to better market and promote the program. The Marketing and Communications department on campus was consulted and Mr. Jamieson Bilella was invited to a meeting. It was determined that a short video should be created to advertise the position. Ideas were generated of when and how this video would be shared if permissible (e.g. by email, at Faculty Orientation and at Faculty Senate). In addition, that the student athletes on the committee would work with the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) members to create a list of potential faculty members who currently have a good relationship with athletes on the various teams, to potentially contact.

Matt Hogue recommended adding the Associate Athletic Director for Compliance as an ex-officio member of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee. The reasoning was this person would be able to provide insight to NCAA rules, answer related questions effectively and provide direction in committee discussions. This recommendation was submitted to Faculty Senate for the April meeting. The motion did not pass.
Summary of Committee Accomplishments and Recommendations: With the assistance of Mr. Jamieson Bilella and the University Marketing and Communication department, a video was created to promote the Faculty Associates program. The next step will be to determine where and how it will be viewed. The committee recommends continued development of the Faculty Associates program to support university student athletes by implementing several of the suggestions made throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Nelson, IAC Chair