



**ANNUAL REPORT
2012-2013
ATHLETICS COMMITTEE**

**University of North Alabama
Florence, Alabama**

Dr. Amanda Hofacker Coffman
Committee Chair

August 5, 2013
Date Submitted

Submitted to: Dr. William G. Cale
President, University of North Alabama

Date Received

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

I. Executive Summary

The members of the Athletics Committee for the 2012-13 academic year were as follows:

- x Mr. Ben Baker (*by position*)
- x Dr. Miranda Bowie (*Faculty, 2015*)
- x Mr. Daryl Brown (*Faculty, 2015*)
- x Dr. Lisa Clayton (*Faculty, 2014*)
- x Dr. Amanda Coffman (*Faculty, 2013*)
- x Ms. Casey Dugger (*SGA, 2013*)
- x Ms. KeKoria Greer (*SGA, 2013*)
- x Mr. Walter Hartley (*SGA, 2013*)
- x Mr. Mark Linder (*by position*)
- x Ms. Jana Morrison (*by position*)
- x Ms. Christa Raney (*Faculty, 2015*)
- x Dr. Pat Roden (*by position*)
- x Ms. Tina Sharp (*by position*)
- x Mr. David Shields (*by po. Ben Baker*)

II. Committee's Charge

1. Ensure the proper role of athletics within the overall mission of the university
2. Ensure the integrity of the athletics program with regard to NCAA, Gulf South Conference, state and federal law compliance, gender equity, and support for the principles presented by the Knight Foundation's Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics

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- b) The Athletics Committee was in favor of hosting the ProGrass International Scout Bowl at Braly Stadium. The bowl game included college seniors from Division I, II, and III, such as Notre Dame and Alabama as well as international students from Africa, India, and Mexico. The players were only responsible for paying a deposit on their hotel room at the Marriot. This appeared to be an outreach program in accordance with the mission of the university. In addition, the players went into elementary schools in support of a reading initiative.
- c) The Athletics Committee was in support of the UNA athletics corporate/donor luncheon, which took place at the band practice field on March 16, 2013 in accordance with the UNA football scrimmage.
- d) The Athletics Committee also discussed the Sportman's Club, which voted to appoint Ms. Melody Stewart as Executive Director, instill new member benefit packages, and begin a drive to increase membership.

2.

- a) The table of contents of the Athletics Department Policy and Procedure Guide was distributed to the Athletics Committee members via e-mail prior to the first meeting of the committee for the 2012-2013 academic year. Details of the guide were presented and discussed at this first meeting.
- b) The Athletics Committee found, the practice of the Athletics Department Staff meeting each year to review the guide and requiring individual accountability to ensure institutional control, acceptable.
- c) The Athletics Committee found the fundraising efforts with regard to Division I of the Athletics Department impressive and compliant. As of the January 24, 2013 meeting, 29.1 million had been raised.
- d) The Athletics Committee was informed and approved of the actions taken by the Athletics Department in response to criminal allegations brought against student athletes. The athletics Committee discussed whether the student athletes lose their financial funding, pending the outcome of the case.

3.

- a) As required by the NCAA, the Athletics Committee has assisted in administering the Student Athlete Experience Evaluation. The evaluation is being adjusted to coordinate with the new UNA website for surveys. The student representatives on the Athletics Committee agreed that electronic surveys are preferable. As the length of the survey requires approximately 45 minutes, adjustments are being made to shorten the survey.
- b) The committee had no objections to the recruiting measures taken by coaches and the administration of a test that must be passed with at least an 80% by a coach before being permitted to recruit student athletes.

- c) The committee found no compliance issues with camps and clinics that are independently run by coaches or the issuing of paperwork to ensure all sports camps comply with NCAA rules and regulations.
- d) The Committee was informed of the NCAA Convention in Dallas, TX that was attended by Mr. Todd Vardaman and Mr. Mark Linder in January 2013. Ten of the thirteen new legislative proposals for Division II passed and will be in effect as of August 2013. New legislation includes a Path to a degree requirement, GPA and test score requirements, sliding scales for eligibility, and a mandatory science component.
- e) The Gender Equity Sub-Committee revised and approved the Gender Equity Strategic Plan. During this process the committee updated the plan to show the year end budget totals for game travel, supplies, and recruiting that is accrued by all sports programs. The committee agreed that the Athletics Department was compliant with regards to gender equity. Ms. Jana Morrison serves as the Chair of the Gender Equity Sub-Committee.
- f) The Minority Opportunity Sub-Committee spearheaded the Minority Student Athlete Mentoring Program. The program, which was assisted by Coach Terry Fowler and Mr. Todd Vardaman placed minority athletes with mentors. The mentors underwent a mentor training session after being asked to give at least a full year commitment. Coach Terry Fowler served as Chair of the Minority Opportunity Sub-Committee.

4.

- a) The committee discussed the role of Todd Vardaman as the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance. In this position, Mr. Vardaman educates athletics representatives of the University of North Alabama on matters related to NCAA compliance.
- b) Each member of the Athletics Committee served as a member of at least one of the subcommittees, the Gender Equity Sub-Committee and the Minority Opportunity Sub-Committee. These subcommittees ensure the Athletics Department is compliant with gender equity and minority opportunities, respectively.

5. The committee discussed the primary responsibility of the athletics academic program, which is to assist student athletes in academic success and graduating.

6.

- a) The first meeting of the academic year, a review of the academic standing of student athletes was discussed. The GPA average for student athletes in the Spring 2012 semester was at a 2.85. The committee felt this displays the proper role of students to participate as athletes and academic achievers contributing to the University environment.

- b) The committee also found, the practice of conducting set study hall hours for student athletes and allowing access to specific tutors through CAARS, to be acceptable.

7.

- a) The Athletics Committee unanimously voted to support the Athletics Department's request to increase funding for athletics scholarships in order to maintain the NCAA Division II scholarship limit of 112 equivalencies. In addition, the committee unanimously voted to support the re-implementation of Phase 3 and Phase 4 of the previously approved 2006-07 plan.
- b) The Athletics Committee was in favor of building a much needed new weight room that would benefit all student athletes. With a new weight room, large teams will not have to divide into groups of six to conduct weight training exercises. A building was donated for the weight room to the Athletics Department and the UNA Board of Trustees approved the construction. The Athletics Department raised \$290,000 through in-kind contributions and the university has agreed to fund \$150,000, which will be re-paid by the Athletics Department over a five-year period.
- c) The committee agreed that the personal welfare of student-athletes is well maintained through grievance procedures that exist to address concerns that

which must take priority over cosmetic repairs. Other concerns that were discussed include the lack of locks on bedroom doors, the responsibility of a student for the full rent amount if their roommate moves out and the cancellation of a lease by a tenant with no penalty.

- f) The committee was in favor of the benefits of on-campus living which include the Campus Hall Success Center, math tutoring, English consultants, Career Planning, computer areas, and a 6% higher retention rate. However, it was agreed that this is not a realistic option for all student athletes.
- g) The committee agreed with the live-on requirement for freshman students, which is already in effect for student athletes, who must have at least a 2.6 GPA to move off campus after their freshman year.
- 8. The Committee members present at the first meeting of the academic year discussed the request, which was initiated by the Staff Senate, for the addition of staff members to the Athletics Committee. The Committee voted unanimously not to endorse this request as staff members appear to be well represented on the Athletics Committee, as well as the NCAA Division-I Work Group. The Athletics Committee chair submitted a response to this request to the President of Staff Senate. In addition this response, which detailed the size; functionality; and representation of the Athletics Committee was forwarded to Dr. Brenda H. Webb, Chair of the Shared Governance Executive Committee.

V. What were the Committee's formal recommendations this year?

The Committee had no formal recommendations this year.

VI. What does the Committee plan to accomplish?

A. In the coming year?

- a) The Athletics Committee will draft a new Strategic Plan.
- b) The Committee will continue working with the Division I Work Group to ensure the University of North Alabama is DI ready.
- c) The Committee will work with the Gender Equity Subcommittee to institute the amended strategic plan.
- d) The Athletics Committee and the Minority Opportunity Sub-Committee will continue to monitor the progress of the Minority Mentoring Program.
- e) The Athletics Committee will continue to work with the Athletics Department in addressing budget concerns.

B. In future years?

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