

**Senate Athletics Committee  
Annual Report 2015 – 2016  
Submitted by Chris Stiller – Chair/FAR  
June 30, 2016**

**Membership**

**Faculty:** Dave Dulio (Political Science, CAS), Karl Majeske (QMM, SBA), Kellie Hay (Communication and Journalism/CAS), Robby Stewart (Fall semester only/Co-FAR and Chair/CAS), Chris Stiller (Chair Winter Term/FAR/Physical Therapy, SHS), Virginia Uhley (School of Medicine),

**Administration:** Jason Taylor (Professional Advising Committee), Julie Dermidoff AP Assembly), Jeff Konya (Athletics)/Ex-officio), Holly Kerstner (Athletics/Ex-officio), Adrian Kowal (Athletics/Ex-officio)

**External Community:** John White

**Student-Athlete Advisory Council Representatives (SAAC):** Jordan Sargent, Joseph Buchalski

**Meetings**

The Senate Athletics Committee (SAC) met every other week throughout the Fall 2015 and once per month during the Winter 2016 semester

**Most Significant Committee Actions**

- Revision of FAR appointment and responsibilities
- Amended/Updated End of Year Survey to reflect current language related to sexual orientation and to changes within athletics; switched from 5-point Likert scale to 6-point Likert scale answers and added N/A where appropriate
- Made changes to Senior Exit Interview Survey/Questions to be clearer and more reflective of current organization of OU Athletics and NCAA/Horizon League language
- Suggested changes to Senate Athletic Committee name to be more reflective of NCAA language, to be more reflective of the charge related to intercollegiate athletics (versus club or intermural sports), and to decrease confusion with the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC); and minor changes to wording of charge and membership to reflect moving from 2 FARs to 1 FAR.
- Recommendations to support renovations to Lepley

**Summary of SAC Activities for 2015-2016**

**September 11, 2015**

- Introduction of members and review of charge
- “A faculty voice ensuring balance between academics and athletics for the benefit of the student-athlete.” From Faculty Academic Representative Association (FARA)
- The role of the Faculty Athletic Representative should expand beyond that of certifying eligibility. FARs should develop “cadre of knowledgeable individuals” (i.e., faculty) on their campuses to ensure a balance of athletic and academic pursuits. (From FARA, 2007)
- President Hynd has asked the SAC to review the process for selecting the FAR/FARs at Oakland University, the characteristics of FAR/FARs that are deemed appropriate and desirable and those that might be deemed inappropriate, and the responsibilities of the FAR/FARs that need to be delineated in the letter of offer he extends to future individuals serving as FAR/FARs.
  - Key issues to be considered include, but are not limited to, the following: term lengths and limits; whether the FAR/FARs ought to chair the Senate Athletic Committee or simply sit as a member on that committee; the type of compensation involved (direct monetary and/or release time) if any; whether an administrator (associate dean, associate provost, etc.) should be eligible to serve as FAR; examine our practices relative to the FAR/FARs’ roles and determine if Oakland University is in line with the practices found at the other institutions in the Horizon League and in comparable institutions in the NCAA
  - *Action: Dave Dulio will coordinate these efforts and will post a Google document to collect thoughts/comments from all committee members.*
- Issues identified as concerns in End of Season (EOS) Survey, April 2015

- Review Executive Summary of EOS and Senior Exit Interviews prepared by Stewart and Stiller; this document has been shared with AD Konya and President Hynd
- Issues concerning the possible revision of the EOS (wording of questions, addition/deletion of questions, shift to 6 point Likert scale), or should we let this wait for the newly appointed FAR to determine if the practice of using the EOS shall continue?

### **September 25, 2015**

- Dave Dulio led the continued discussion of the process for selecting the FAR/FARs at Oakland as requested by President Hynd
  - First item of consensus – consider two (2) FARs serving staggered terms
  - Second item of consensus – an administrator with faculty standing should be considered eligible to serve as FAR; if an administrator is selected, then the second FAR should be a member of the faculty (a member of the bargaining group) who has tenure and is preferably a full professor or a special instructor with job security
  - Third item of consensus – the term for the FAR/FARs should be 5 years with unlimited renewals
  - Fourth item of consensus – the selection of the FAR/FARs rests with the President
  - Fifth item of consensus – the “start date” for the FAR/FARs should be August 15 where ever possible
  - Sixth item of consensus – the FAR/FARs shall be chairs of SAC
  - Seventh item of consensus – courses releases for teaching faculty are reasonable, funds to cover travel costs to attend NCAA, FARA and Horizon League meetings are expected, passes to attend all OU sport events are reasonable
  - Eighth item of consensus – FAR responsibilities are primarily to the President as described in the NCAA publication of the FAR Handbook; the FAR also serves as a bridge from the faculty to the student-athlete and from the student-athlete to the faculty; the FAR responsibilities statement from U Wisconsin – Green Bay was deemed exemplary

### **October 9, 2015**

- Final draft of report to President Hynd is reviewed and consensus is obtained to submit this report to him.
- Copy of report is attached.

### **October 26, 2015**

- Discussion focuses on modifications for the End of Season (EOS) survey
  - Shift from five (5) Likert choices to six (6) ranging from “Extremely Dissatisfied” to “Extremely Satisfied” with no neutral choice available
  - A choice of “Not applicable given my experiences” is provided to the left of the six (6) Likert choices
  - The previous practice of seeking gender information using a simple male or female binary response was discussed and found to be inadequate. Rather than devising a means to assess biological gender and gender identity the consensus was to drop this question from the demographic section of the survey.
  - Section #9 on Athletic Administration will be re-written to include up to six (6) questions for each of the five (5) administrators current having responsibilities for team supervision (Konya, Kerstner, McMeel, MacDonald, Foley)

### **November 6, 2015**

- Meeting canceled

### **November 20, 2015**

- Meeting canceled

### **December 4, 2015**

- Discussions focused on revisions of the Senior-Exit Interview and the End of Season interview to address the issues of an appropriate means for collecting demographic data and issues with individual questions that have proven to be problematic in the past. Stewart incorporated these changes into both documents and will make them available to the new FAR.
- Discussion continued on the broad topic of the function of these survey instruments and the best way to utilize them to serve the purposes of Athletics given its new and evolving ethos.

**January 2016** – no meeting scheduled in January; two meetings in March

**February 2, 2016**

Members present: Holly Kerstner, Adrian Kowal, Chris Stiller, Jordan Sargent, Jason Taylor, John White

1. Review of Athletics Professional Ethos – Holly Kerstner reviewed the Ethos and talked about how it has impacted Athletics.
2. Faculty Recognition Breakfast – Holly Kerstner discussed the Faculty Recognition Breakfast; the Breakfast is February 18 at 7:30. All are invited to attend. Holly will send an email asking SAC members to RSVP.
3. FAR update – Chris Stiller and Jeff Konya will be meeting with President Hynd on February 12 to discuss the document that was sent by the SAC regarding recommendations for the FAR position.
4. End of Year Survey/Senior Exit Interview – Verified that both were finalized at the December 4 meeting.
5. Horizon League Post-Graduate Scholarship- Chris Stiller distributed information about this scholarship and gave a brief history of past practices and recipients. Chris Stiller and Holly Kerstner will review the final applicants to select the OU male and female candidates to be sent to the Horizon League FARs.
6. Other
  - Holly Kerstner distributed a list of events/activities in which student-athletes are involved and highlighted several events:
    - February 13 Food Drive –anyone who knows of organizations on or off campus who would like to be involved should let Holly know; donations will be to the Baldwin Center in Pontiac; February 13 is the final day of the food drive and it will be held in conjunction with the basketball game.
    - GOLD Portfolios – Holly asked if SAC members wanted to review the Portfolios; members present at the meeting felt that they did not need to review the Portfolios, but would like to see some samples.
    - April 18 – Black and Gold Awards; Awards ceremony for student-athletes to be held at the Fox Theater; SAC members are welcome to attend.
  - Horizon League Men’s Basketball Tournament – to be held at Joe Lewis Arena; March 5-8; Women’s Basketball Tournament will be held in Green Bay March 9-13; Next year, both Men’s and Women’s Tournaments will be at Joe Lewis.
  - Chris Stiller brought up the idea of having Athletics provide more information about how Athletics works to SAC members at each meeting to help members better understand Athletics, allowing them to be more informed when speaking to student-athletes and the University community. Chris suggested a tour of the Athletics facility as one thing to do; this will be done at one of the next few meetings. SAC members having other ideas about things they would like to know about Athletics should email their thoughts to Chris ([cstiller@oakland.edu](mailto:cstiller@oakland.edu)).

**March 1, 2016**

Present: Chris Stiller (Chair), Jeff Konya, Holly Kerstner, Dave Dulio, Jason Taylor, Julie Dermidoff

1. Update on FAR
  - Per the NCAA, President Hynd only wants OU to have one FAR
  - President Hynd’s suggested length of appointment was three years; the Committee felt that 3 years was short because it takes about this long to learn all the details about being a FAR; Jeff and Chris will discuss this with President Hynd
2. Process for selecting FAR
  - Two different processes for selecting a FAR were discussed – one was to send an email to all faculty asking that anyone who is interested submit his/her name for consideration and the other was for someone from the Senate Athletic Committee to suggest names to the President
  - Chris and Jeff will discuss these two options with the President when they meet with him on Friday, March 4.
3. Changes to Charge for Senate Athletic Committee
  - Change #6 since there will be only one FAR (See #1 above); Committee felt the FAR should remain as the Chair – Jeff and Chris will discuss this with President Hynd
  - Change name of the Committee to Intercollegiate Athletic Committee
    - Rationale – too much confusion between Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC – referred to as “double A SAAC”) and Senate Athletic Committee (SAC – referred to as “single A SAC”); Intercollegiate Athletic Committee is also more reflective of the Committee’s charge as it relates only to Intercollegiate Athletics and not all athletic activities (recreational, club and intermural); and more reflective of NCAA language
4. Absence Policy
  - There are still some issues with faculty not abiding by the Oakland University Excused Absence policy; Jeff and Chris will discuss this issue with President Hynd when they meet with him.

5. Report on Faculty Recognition Breakfast
  - Holly reported that the Faculty Recognition Breakfast was a success; plans for next year's event were discussed. Holly reported that it will not be possible to have a breakfast next year due to renovations to the Banquet Rooms. Other possibilities include a dinner and/or tailgating before a man's basketball game with the faculty being recognized at the game. Athletics is waiting for the Men's Basketball schedule to make final arrangements for this event
6. Motor City Madness – Men's Basketball Tournament, March 5-8; everyone is encouraged to attend
7. Tour of Athletics
  - Holly and Jeff took committee members on a tour of the Athletic Facilities; SAC members thought the tour was very informative; Jeff discussed proposed renovations to Lepley and SAC members voiced support for these renovations.

**March 22, 2016**

**Present:** Julie Dermidoff, Dave Dulio, Holly Kerstner, Jeff Konya, Adrian Kowal, Jordan Sargent, Chris Stiller (Chair), Jason Taylor

1. Update on FAR and meeting with President Hynd
  - Jeff and Chris met with Dr. Hynd on April 8
  - President approved:
    - Appointment of FAR for 5 years; FAR to remain Chair of Senate Athletic Committee; one course release; Chris will remain as FAR
    - Changes to Senate Athletic Committee name; 2 FARs to 1 FAR; minor wording changes
2. Update on Faculty Recognition for 2017
  - Still waiting to hear about Men's Basketball schedule to finalize the plans for this event
3. Horizon League Post-Graduate Scholarship
  - There were three female applicants; no males
  - Holly and Chris will review the applicants to choose a nominee to the Horizon League
  - Jeff and Holly reported that the scholarship may no longer exist after this year due to Horizon League budget considerations
4. Senior Exit Interview – discussion of possible changes
  - The current Senior Exit Interview was reviewed and changes were suggested; in addition, members of the committee felt that the wording that is used in the Senior Exit Interview should be as close as possible to the wording in the End of Year Survey
  - Chris will make the changes and bring a draft to the next meeting
  - Currently students complete the survey when they come in for the interview; it was decided that in the future, the Senior Exit Interview questions will be sent to the students to fill ahead of time so that they can complete it prior to coming to the interview
  - Currently students can begin scheduling Senior Exit Interviews on March 15; it was decided that the Interviews can be scheduled immediately after winter break in the future
5. Recommendations from SAC
  - Changes to Senate Athletic Committee
  - FAR is currently the Chair. The SAC recommends that the FAR remain as Chair; includes changing the language to reflect that there will be one FAR
  - Change the Committee name
    - Change name of the Committee to *Intercollegiate Athletic Committee*
    - Rationale
      - Too much confusion between Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC – referred to as “double A SAAC”) and Senate Athletic Committee (SAC – referred to as “single A SAC”)
      - Intercollegiate Athletic Committee is more reflective of the Committee's charge as it relates only to Intercollegiate Athletics and not all athletic activities (recreational, club and intermural).
      - More reflective of NCAA language.
  - Practice Facilities Renovation
    - The SAC had a tour of the Athletic facilities, including Lepley, during the last meeting. In addition, Jeff discussed proposed renovations to the facility to add another practice court and to add several classrooms.
    - SAC supports the renovations to the facility as they will allow more flexibility in scheduling for the teams that have to use the courts, which in turn will allow for greater flexibility in scheduling classes for S-As and for studying.

- In addition, because the renovation will include the addition of two classrooms, the renovations would add more classroom space for all students on campus.
- Transfer Student Policy for transfers from community colleges:
  - Oakland policy for transfers from community colleges states that students can only transfer half the number of credits to complete their degree at Oakland.
  - Impacts all transfer students, including student athletes
    - If students receive more transfer credits from another university are likely to go there.
    - If they do choose to transfer to OU, they will pay more tuition dollars and it will take them longer to graduate.

### April 12, 2016

Present: Chris Stiller (Chair), Julie Dermidoff, Dave Dulio, Holly Kerstner, Adrian Kowal, Jason Taylor, Virginia Uhley

- Update on FAR and meeting with President
  - Jeff and Chris met with Dr. Hynd on April 8
  - President approved:
    - i. Appointment of FAR for 5 years; FAR to remain Chair of Senate Athletic Committee; one course release; Chris will remain as FAR
    - ii. Changes to Senate Athletic Committee (see recommendations below)
  - Discussion regarding Student Absence Policy
    - i. President agreed that moving grades to final for students who miss class according to the Excused Absence Policy is not equitable
    - ii. to be discussed with Provost Lentini
    - iii. President would like some examples of what has been done to accommodate student absences and what has not been done to accommodate student absences – Holly and Evan will provide these examples.
  - Discussion of Dr. Lentini's role with SAC - any issues directly related to academics
  - Practice facility
    - i. Renovations supported by President
    - ii. Recommendation/letter of support from SAC should be sent to the President
  - Transfer Policy
    - i. President would like some information regarding transfer policies at other institutions, but generally sees the advantage of increasing the number of transfer credits for those wishing to transfer to OU.
    - ii. What universities should be used as a comparison?
    - iii. Recommendation from SAC should be sent to the President
  - Issues for SAC to explore/consider for the 2016-17 academic year
    - i. Implement changes to SAC that were recommended this year-Chris will send recommendation to the Senate
    - ii. Financial aid issues that affect student-athlete welfare
    - iii. Continue discussion regarding transfer students
- Senior Exit Interviews
  - Approximately 2/3 of the senior exit interviews have been completed
  - Chris will ask Evan to send out a reminder to seniors to schedule an appointment with either her or Holly for the senior exit interview.
  - Chris is still working on reformatting/retyping the Senior Exit Interview Survey
- Update on Faculty Recognition Dinner
  - Recognition will be in conjunction with a final Men's basketball game; date to be determined once the Men's basketball schedule is finalized in the fall
- Horizon League Post-Graduate Scholarships
  - female applicant name forwarded to Horizon League; no male applicants
- Black and Gold Awards
  - April 18 at the Fox at 7:00 pm; All SAC members are invited and encouraged to attend

## Recommendations from SAC

- Changes to Senate Athletic Committee
  - i. FAR is currently the Chair. The SAC recommends that the FAR remain as Chair; includes changing the language to reflect that there will be on FAR
  - ii. Change the Committee name
    1. Change name of the Committee to *Intercollegiate Athletic Committee*
    2. Rationale
      - a. Too much confusion between Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC – referred to as “double A SAAC”) and Senate Athletic Committee (SAC – referred to as “single A SAC”)
      - b. Intercollegiate Athletic Committee is more reflective of the Committee’s charge as it relates only to Intercollegiate Athletics and not all athletic activities (recreational, club and intermural).
      - c. More reflective of NCAA language.
  - iii. Chris will forward recommended changes to Provost Lentini
- Practice Facilities Renovation
  - i. The SAC had a tour of the Athletic facilities, including Lepley, during the last meeting. In addition, Jeff discussed proposed renovations to the facility to add another practice court and to add several classrooms.
  - ii. SAC supports the renovations to the facility as they will allow more flexibility in scheduling for the teams that have to use the courts, which in turn will allow for greater flexibility in scheduling classes for S-As and for studying.
  - iii. In addition, because the renovation will include the addition of two classrooms, the renovations will benefit all students on campus since it will allow for more classroom space (i.e. during the day) when this space is not being used by athletics for filming/Life Skills programs (i.e. evenings).
  - iv. Renovations of the locker room for Cross Country and Track and Field are included in the plans; the locker room renovations will improve student-athlete welfare as the locker rooms as they are now are barely usable.
  - v. Will send recommendation to President Hynd; Chris to draft
- Transfer Student Policy for transfers from community colleges
  - i. Oakland policy for transfers from community colleges states that students can only transfer half the number of credits to complete their degree at Oakland.
  - ii. Impacts all transfer students
    - If students receive more transfer credits from another university are likely to go there.
    - If they do choose to transfer to OU, they will pay more tuition dollars and it will take them longer to graduate.
  - iii. Student-athlete impact
    - Impacts recruitment per NCAA rules
  - iv. Julie Dermidoff and Holly Kerstner are on a Transfer Policy Committee which will look at this issue, however, the Committee is still completing its work and no final recommendations/decisions have been made.
  - v. SAC supports changes in Transfer Policy that will encourage more students to transfer to OU, however more information is needed from the Transfer Policy Committee in order to make a final recommendation
  - vi. SAC will revisit this issue during the next 2016-17 academic year.