

**Senate Intercollegiate Athletics Committee**  
**Annual Report 2020-21**  
**Submitted by Chris Stiller – Chair/Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR)**  
**April 28, 2021**

**Membership**

Faculty: Yazan Roumani (SBA), Melissa McDonald (CAS), Stephanie Vallie (SON), Felicia Chong (CAS)

Administration: Matt Prentice (Professional Advising Council), Sharise Calhoun (Admissions), Steve Waterfield (Athletics Director/Ex-Officio and non-voting), Ashley Stone (Athletics Senior Woman Athletic Representative /Ex- officio and non-voting), Mari Talishalski (Athletics Compliance/Ex-officio and non-voting)

External Community: Sue Evans (Community Representative/Alumni)

Student-Athlete Advisory Council Representatives (SAAC): Tom Giroux (SAACEC Men's Representative), Adeline Swiderski (SAACEC Women's Representative)

Guests: Joe Robinson (Compliance), Mallory Matson (Compliance) – attended meetings at the request of Mari Talishalski to help facilitate NCAA compliance.

**Committee Charge**

1. To advise the President and the Athletic Director about matters affecting the academic and athletic integrity of intercollegiate athletics, including, but not limited to, matters affecting student-athlete welfare.
2. To advise the Athletic Director generally on policies for student-athletes including, but not limited to, standards of academic eligibility, student support and health, academic integrity and progress, equity, Title IX, and NCAA and Horizon League issues.
3. To assist Oakland University in meeting the NCAA and Horizon League standards for student-athlete welfare.
4. To receive timely and regular reports from the Athletic Director on matters related to athletics, including but not limited to current and proposed plans and policies that affect the athletic programs, including plans and policies on buildings, facilities, budgets, services, academic support and NCAA compliance; and to advise and make recommendations on same.
5. To receive reports and recommendations from other Senate committees and to advise and make recommendations to the Senate and its committees, as needed.
6. To take on additional duties as directed by the Senate Steering Committee.

**Meetings**

The Senate Intercollegiate Athletics Committee (SIAC) met monthly throughout the 2020-2021 academic year.

**Committee Goals**

- All goals listed below were achieved with the exception of A2 (Get further clarification form Registrar's Office regarding transfer policies/procedures), D2 (Conduct Faculty Survey), and D3 (Conduct Faculty Training).

- D2 and D3 postponed due to COVID; SIAC thought it would be better to wait until the University was back to in person learning to complete these two goals – will complete these two goals during the 2021-22 academic year, pending in person learning. Will reconsider goal of getting further clarification about transfer policies/procedures during the next academic year.

### 2020-21 SIAC Goals

- A. Increase communication with other departments on campus (financial aid, admissions, registrar, graduate study)
  1. Get further clarification from Financial Aid regarding financial aid policies/procedures- Mari Tilashalski; Two major issues (Appeals are sent to same person who denies a request, needs based awards); Chris will invite Nancy Fetzer to a future meeting
  2. Get further clarification from the Registrar's Office regarding transfer policies/procedures- Mari and Chris will meet with Registrar staff
  3. Clarification from Graduate Study regarding admissions and expectations; Ashley, Chris, Mari, and Evan Dermidoff will met with Grad Study on February 1.
- B. Improve interactions/understanding between faculty and Athletics (faculty survey; presentations; other as needed) – Faculty Staff/Impact Player Appreciation Event; SAAC delivering appreciation items to different departments on campus
- C. Support Athletics
  1. Work with Athletics to improve student-athlete well-being training as needed
  2. Work with Athletics to improve understanding of issues related to social justice/diversity, equity and inclusion as needed – DEI series (Ashley Stone); OneHL (Chris Stiller)
  3. Support Athletics goals for improving facilities – Lepley, Baseball/Softball facilities, Golf
- D. Action Items
  1. Finish revising End of Season Surveys – Done; SAAC Executive Board is piloting (see III below)
  2. Conduct Faculty Survey – Wait until in person; move to 2020-21 academic year
  3. Conduct Faculty Training – Wait until in person; move to 2020-21 academic year
  4. Develop Guidelines for make-up work for student-athlete Excused Absences – Excused Absence Policy and Excusal Form on Senate Website and link incorporated into syllabus template; Guidelines were reviewed by the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee to obtain feedback.

### Most Significant Committee Actions

- Revision of End of Season Surveys – Committee worked with Ashley Stone for initial suggestions for revisions; Ashley Stone, Chris Stiller and Melissa McDonald completed revisions.
- Met with financial aid personnel to clarify policies and procedures related to financial aid.
- Supported Athletics and student-athletes on issues related to COVID
- Implemented University Excused Absence Policy within Athletics; finished Guidelines for making up work that is missed by students due to excusals permitted under the Excused Absence Policy.
- Participated in Athletics sponsored events related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (e.g. Tommy Shavers).
- Supported Athletics in regard to development efforts (e.g. Lepley, indoor golf, baseball/softball facilities)
- Developed Guidelines to advise post-bac transfer students and work cooperatively with Grad School; Document being reviewed/edited by Grad School (Clair Rammel and Brandy Randall); Coaching/Staff Education session be held on May 25.
- Faculty SIAC members provided input to Ashley Stone regarding University Academic Misconduct Policies.
- Established possible goals for the 2021-2022 academic year as follows:

- A. Revise Student-Athlete Exit Survey
- B. Review/possibly revise Transfer Exit Interview question
- C. Conduct Faculty Survey – Wait until in person; was on hold for 2021-21 due to COVID
- D. Conduct Faculty Training – Wait until in person; was on hold for 2021-21 due to COVID
- E. Continue to work with Graduate School to improve understanding about policies, procedures and philosophy of post-bac education (Ashley, Chris, Mari and Evan have been working on this during the 2020-21 academic year; continue as needed next year – possible continued education/training for staff, coaches and student-athletes)
- F. Continue to work with Financial Aid as needed.
- G. Support Athletics
  - 1. Work with Athletics to improve student-athlete well-being training as needed
    - Emergency procedures training
  - 2. Work with Athletics to improve understanding of issues related to social justice/diversity, equity and inclusion as needed – Continue with programming/education as applicable
  - 3. Support Athletics’ goals for improving facilities – Lepley, Baseball/Softball facilities, Golf.