

Annual Report

2014 - 2015

**Senate Athletics Committee
Oakland University**

**Submitted by
Robby Stewart Chair/FAR
&
Chris Stiller Chair/ FAR
May 20, 2015**

Senate Athletics Committee Annual Report 2014 - 2015

Executive Summary

Membership

Faculty: Dave Dulio (Political Science CAS) Karl Majeske (QMM SBA) Sue Saliga (Physical Therapy SHS) Chris Stiller (Physical Therapy SHS) Inaya Hajj-Hussein (Biomedical Sciences SOM) Robby Stewart (Psychology CAS Chair)

Administration: Lorin Wright (Professional Advisors Committee) David Tindall (Director of Development SEHS) Jeff Konya (Athletics ex officio and non voting) Holly Kerstner (Athletics ex officio and non voting) Adrian Kowal (Athletics ex officio and non voting)

External Community: John White

Student-Athlete Advisory Council Representatives (SAAC): Jordan Sargent Joe Buchalski

Meetings

The Senate Athletics Committee (SAC) met face-to-face every other week throughout the Fall 2014 and Winter 2015 semesters (10 meetings). The committee regularly utilized an email distribution of documents to permit asynchronous deliberations of committee issues.

Most Significant Committee Actions

- Recommended a new charge and membership for the committee to address changes at the NCAA level. The changes bring in line what the committee has been doing with the charge itself in response to these new NCAA directives.
- Honored 151 faculty members identified as being outstanding mentors by student-athletes at the annual Faculty Recognition Breakfast.
- Initiated a Faculty Academic Mentor (FAM) program to assist Oakland University student-athletes in achieving their academic goals. The purpose of the program is to help student-athletes connect with faculty members who have a strong interest in Oakland University athletics and who would like to contribute to the academic success and overall well-being of student-athletes.
- Reviewed report from the NCAA Sport Science Institute and made recommendations for interventions in the interest of student-athlete well-being and mental wellness.

Other Important Information

- For the third-straight semester Oakland led the Horizon League conference with 125 student-athletes meeting Fall 2014 Honor Roll criteria.
- Student-athlete Julianne Boyle was a national finalist for the Walter Byers Scholarship, the most prestigious academic award granted by the NCAA.
- Student-athletes Julianne Boyle and Spencer Marentette were awarded Horizon League Post-graduate scholarships.
- For Fall 2014 student-athlete had an overall GPA of 3.21, the highest ever.

**Senate Athletics Committee
Annual Report 2014 – 2015**

Submitted by Robby Stewart & Chris Stiller

Membership

Faculty: Dave Dulio (Political Science CAS) Karl Majeske (QMM SBA) Sue Saliga (Physical Therapy SHS) Chris Stiller (Physical Therapy SHS) Inaya Hajj-Hussein (Biomedical Sciences SOM) Robby Stewart (Psychology CAS Chair)

Administration: Lorin Wright (Professional Advisors Committee) David Tindall (Director of Development SEHS) Jeff Konya (Athletics ex officio and non voting) Holly Kerstner (Athletics ex officio and non voting) Adrian Kowal (Athletics ex officio and non voting)

External Community: John White

Student-Athlete Advisory Council Representatives (SAAC): Jordan Sargent Joe Buchalski

Meetings

The Senate Athletics Committee (SAC) met face-to-face every other week throughout the Fall 2014 and Winter 2015 semesters (10 meetings). The committee regularly utilized an Email distribution of documents to permit asynchronous deliberations of committee issues.

Summary of SAC Activities for 2014-2015

September 12, 2014

- 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)
- Review of key areas of concern identified in 2014 End of Season survey (meals of road practice facilities competition facilities publicity head coach role in creating healthy & motivating environment) and facilitate remedy where possible.
- The Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) continued the practice of structuring itself around three subcommittees (Academic Development Athletic Development Community Involvement) rather than 16 teams; the Student-Athlete Leadership Program (GOLD) is expanding to have [1] a peer group to review submissions from last year in an effort to provide more structure and guidance [2] a peer group to facilitate the development of portfolios and [3] discussions of how to recognize leadership opportunities. Stiller and Stewart provided facilitated this group.

September 26, 2014

- Report from Stewart summarizing his meeting with President Hynd (his aspirations for athletics at OU thoughts about two FARs rather than one potential changes to

charge and membership of this committee thoughts about “special talent” admissions)

- Faculty Recognition Breakfast with identified faculty mentors may be repeated in February 2015 – preliminary discussion of potential changes
- Dulio accepted the task of developing a draft proposal for a revised charge for this committee.
- Detailed discussion of the “special talent” admission issue; assignments made to survey practices at other D1 institutions, those in league, peers

October 10, 2014

- The Dulio draft of new committee charge was reviewed; minor changes recommended and approved
- Review of “special talent” admissions as practices by other universities; details from Kowal concerning NCAA legislation and OU practices

October 24, 2014

- Second review of the Dulio draft of new committee charge; approved by committee
- Continued discussion of “special talent” issue; conclusion is that the practice already exists to a sufficient degree at OU; no further action necessary

November 7, 2014

- Cancelled due to committee members need to attend conferences

November 21, 2014

- Cancelled due to light agenda

December 5, 2014

- Proposal for the committee charge was approved by the Senate on November 20
- Update from FARA meeting: [1] review of NCAA Sport Science Institute reports as they pertain to student-athlete well-being and mental wellness; [2] Sharing “Research Extra Point” summaries with SAAC; [3] discussion of Christine Copper’s (FARA at Naval Academy President-elect of FARA) proposal for institutions to consider appointing a faculty mentor to each athletic team
- Discussion of sexual assault and interpersonal violence issues and means of presenting information concerning these topics to student-athletes

January 9, 2015

- Continued discussion of Christine Copper’s suggestion to consider identifying faculty members to serve as mentors with student-athletes; how would this best fit at OU?
- Faculty Recognition Breakfast set for February 19; as before student-athletes with GPA of 3.0 or better may nominate one faculty member those with 3.6 or better may nominate two

January 23, 2015

- Stewart reports that faculty mentoring initiative was a focus of discussion at recent NCAA Convention; Copper led presentation of FARs, and a student-athlete and coach to describe the processes and benefits of such a program; Commissioner LeCrone is supportive of discussing this at league level
- Suggestion to offer this opportunity to faculty being honored at the recognition breakfast

February 6, 2015

- Faculty Academic Mentor program discussed in greater depth with descriptions of program at other institutions provided; President Hynd is supportive of such a program at OU
- Draft of Faculty Academic Mentor Responsibilities presented to group; detailed notes from NCAA session distributed as well; committee gives verbal approval to go forward with development of program
- Discussion of Hart Associates report entitled "Falling Short"; indications that students have a tendency to overestimate their preparedness for careers relative to evaluations provided by employers; Stewart to present this to SAAC in near future

February 20, 2015

- Meeting canceled with assumption that committee members would review Faculty Academic Mentor Responsibilities draft and provide written commentary or suggestions for revision by meeting time

March 6, 2015

- Meeting cancelled; norovirus on campus has numerous committee members out ill

March 20, 2015

- Meeting cancelled due to light agenda and numerous committee members having schedule conflicts
- Updates shared via email include the following:
 - Stiller and Stewart completed the process of identifying the male and female student-athletes who will be nominated for the Horizon League Post-graduate scholarship. Spencer Marentette (English creative writing major Baseball) was selected to be our male nominee and Julianne Boyle (Bioengineering major Soccer) was selected to be our female nominee.
 - Stewart nominated Matthew DeLang to be considered for NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships in the Fall sports group
 - Stewart also nominated Julianne Boyle to be considered for the NCAA Walter Byer Post-graduate scholarship.
 - Stewart and Tricia Grant are in the final stages of preparing her nomination for a NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship in the Winter sports group.
- A dozen applications from a wide-variety of faculty who are interested in serving as a faculty academic mentor.

April 3, 2015

- Twenty-six faculty members from across the university have volunteered to be part of the Faculty Academic Mentor program; discussion continues as the best way to launch this program with coaches and student-athletes.
- Discussion focused on potential of clustering faculty with various senior administrators in Athletics who have team supervision responsibilities.

April 17, 2015

- Closing discussion of Faculty Academic Mentor Program leads to final set of minor changes to statement and then an unanimous vote of support from committee.
- Early tabled data from EOS survey are reviewed; issue of “partial respondent” group is introduced; these student-athletes did not complete the survey but wrote very detailed comments on the first six to ten items

Other Important Information

- For the third-straight semester Oakland led the Horizon League conference with 125 student-athletes meeting Fall 2014 Honor Roll criteria. Candidates for the Honor Roll must meet three criteria in order to qualify:
 - participation in at least one of the League's 19 sports during the most recent (or current) season
 - completion of three semesters (or four quarters where applicable) as a full-time student at the same member institution
 - have a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.20 (on a 4.00 scale).
- Julianne Boyle was a national finalist for the Walter Byers Scholarship fund the most prestigious academic award granted by the NCAA.
- Student-athletes Julianne Boyle and Spencer Marentette were awarded Horizon League Post-graduate scholarships. Julianne will attend the University of Michigan Medical School and Spencer will continue his screen writing studies at the University of Southern California.
- Oakland placed nine student-athletes on the 2014 Fall Academic All-League Teams A total of 52 student-athletes from five fall sports were honored in balloting by the League’s faculty athletics representatives and sports information directors.
- Oakland led the Horizon League with 20 honorees for the Winter Academic All League teams.
- For Fall 2014 student-athlete had a overall GPA of 3.21.
- Our student athletes donated time and resources to many community organizations in the 2014-2015 academic year.

Appendix A

1. Revised Committee Charge and Membership
2. Announcement of Faculty Recognition Breakfast
3. Sample Letter to Recognized Faculty
4. List of Faculty Recognized
5. Faculty Academic Mentor Program statement

Senate Athletic 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 well being.
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.

Membership:

1. Four faculty members, serving staggered three-year terms
2. Two student-athletes, designated by SAAC Executive Committee
3. One Administrative Professional from either University Housing, Student Financial Services, or Admissions, serving a three-year term
4. One member of the Professional Advisers Council, serving a three-year term
5. One external/community member, serving a three-year term
6. The two Faculty Athletic Representatives, one of whom shall serve as chair
7. The Athletic Director, the Senior Woman Administrator in Athletics, one staff member from the area of athletics compliance, all *ex-officio* and nonvoting

Teaching Learning and Academic Success

The Senate Athletic Committee would like to invite you to a celebration of academic achievement. Please join us on Thursday February 19th in Banquet Room B from 7:00 to 9 am as we recognize both the academic success of our scholar-athletes and the faculty who helped them achieve these goals.

OU student-athletes continue their long tradition of being successful in the classroom. Our commitment to “Graduates and Champions” has been recognized at the state league and national level and the committee would like to acknowledge the contributions of those who have made this possible.

Please join us on Thursday February 19th for breakfast and a brief presentation recognizing our scholar-athletes as they honor the faculty members who assisted them in achieving their pursuits in the classroom.

January 30 2015

Dear {Faculty Member}

On behalf of the Senate Athletic Committee it is my pleasure to invite you to join us in Banquet Room A of the Oakland Center on Thursday February 19th from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. as we gather to recognize and show appreciation for the contributions you have made to our mission. We have asked our top scholar-athletes to nominate those professors and instructors who have been especially instrumental in assisting them in and out of the classroom. I am pleased to inform you that you have been nominated by one or more of our scholar-athletes to be recognized for your contributions.

There is a long-standing tradition within the Athletic Department at Oakland University to recognize the “Graduates and Champions” among the student-athletes; those student-athletes who excel in the classroom and earn academic honors and scholarships as well as acknowledge the accomplishments of individuals and teams that achieve excellence in athletic competition. This year we are continuing our efforts to recognize the contributions made by people such as you who have assisted our student-athletes in the pursuit of their academic goals. To that end I hope you are able to join us for breakfast and a brief presentation honoring the faculty members who our scholar-athletes have identified as being important in their academic endeavors. If you are unable to attend I hope you are pleased to at least learn that your efforts have been recognized and appreciated by a student you may not have even known to be a student-athlete as well as by the staff and administrators who work with these individuals.

If you are able to attend please R.S.V.P. to Evan Dermidoff at dermido2@oakland.edu by February 6 2015.

Thank you and congratulations.

Robby Stewart
Faculty Athletic Representative
Chair Senate Athletic Committee
Associate Dean CAS

cc: {College/School Dean}

Faculty Honored at the 2015 Faculty Recognition Breakfast

Henry Aigbedo	Ami Harbin	Mark Richardson
Gregory Allar	Graeme Harper	Charlie Rinehart
Elizabeth Anderson	Tristin Hassell	Rebecca Rivard
Kevin Andrews	Kellie Hay	Stafford Rorke
Claude Baillargeion	Charlene Hayden	Jose Saenz
Mary Bee	Jen Heilser	Nancy Savage
Getnet Bekele	Tara Hendin	Joseph Schiele
Benjamin Bennett-Carpenter	Tamara Hew	Marya Schmalzried
Subha Bhaskaran	Sarah Hosch	Darrell Schmidt
Bhushan Bhatt	Marcia Hudson	Adina Schneeweis
James Boniface	Mark Isken	Sankar Sengupta
Arnold Braver	Melissa Jackson	Elizabeth Shesko
Thomas Brennan	Wendi Johnson	Anna Spagnuolo
Jenine Brown	Timothy Johnston	Melissa St. Pierre
John Burn	Andrea Jones	Steven Stanton II
Frank Cardimen	Terri Jongekrijg	Mary Stein
Michael Chaney	Jenna Katz	Annette Stenesa
Sara Chapman Williams	Christopher Kauh	Lucille Sternburgh
Jill Chrobak	Patricia Ketcham	Amanda Sterns-Pfeiffer
Brian Connery	Patricia Kish	David Szlag
Robert Connolly	Andrea Knutson	Beth Talbert
Jennifer Coon	Shailesn Lai	Jessica Thompson
John Corbin	Denise Lanfeal	Jennifer Tillinger
Betty Crowder	Yan Li	Jason Torrente
Melissa Curtis – Hendley	Michael Long	Terri Towner
Florence Dallo	Jennifer Lucarelli	Ronald Tracy
Matt Dammon	Michael MacDonald	Evan Trivedi
Lisa DeCeuninck	Gerald Madlambayan	Carol Trupiano
Roman Dembinski	Thomas Mahard	Linda Tyson
Terry Dibble	Barbara Main	Robert Van Til
Sumit Dinda	Kenneth McCarter	Michael Vito
Mark Doman	Janet McKenney	Christian Wagner
(Anne) Colleen Doyle	Catherine McQueen	Holly Walker
William Edwards	Mary Anne Mikus	Kari Wasen
Alan Epstein	Jean Ann Miller	Stefen Welch
Fatima Ferreira	Cindy Mooty-Hoffmann	Randall Westrick
Gene Fliedner	Andrea Moyer	Keith Williams
Gene Fogel	Kevin Murphy	Joanne Williams
Donna Free	Sebnem Onsay	Marta Wloch
Emily Freeman	Mohammad Ozbeki	Patrica Wren
Laura Gabrion	Michele Parhill-Purdie	Jonathan Yates
Tara Gardner	Jason Pennington	Grant Yocom
Garry Gilbert	Caterina Perri	Jeffrey Youngquist
Leonard Givens	Joseph Pia	Sha Zhao
Brian Goslin	Ram Mohan Pisharodi	Sherri Zimmerman
Jennifer Gower-Toms	Maria Ploof	
Ian Greenspan	Cornelia Pokrzwa	
Charlie Gregg	Sandra Powell	
Holly Greiner-Hallman	Steffan Puwal	
Laila Guessous	James Alan Quinn	
Janell Hallauer	Thomas Raffel	
Ali Hammoud	Candice Reyes	
Darrin Hanna	Melissa Reznar	

FACULTY ACADEMIC MENTOR PROGRAM

Adopted by the Senate Athletic Committee, April 17, 2015

A Faculty Academic Mentor (FAM) program is being initiated by the Senate Athletic Committee to assist Oakland University student-athletes in achieving their academic goals. The purpose of the program is to help student-athletes connect with faculty members who have a strong interest in Oakland University athletics and who would like to contribute to the academic success and overall well-being of student-athletes. This program draws from the best practices previously established in programs at the US Naval Academy (DI, Patriot League), the University of Kansas (DI, Big 12 League), and Washington & Lee University (DIII, Old Dominion Athletic League), as well as from similar programs at Bates College and SUNY Potsdam. The task-at-hand may, in some cases be large, but the rewards of working with student-athletes should compensate for the effort asked of mentors.

The mission of the Faculty Mentor Program is to increase not only the graduation rate and retention of student-athletes, but also the success rate our student-athletes experience in applying to graduate programs or starting careers after college. Mentors will strive to enhance the student-athlete's academic experience at OU, to be a steward of their well-being, and to prepare them for long-term success in their chosen professions.

This mission will be achieved through the efforts of faculty mentors that participate in the following activities:

1. By serving as mentors to student athletes on academic issues such as advising on study habits and test-taking skills, and providing guidance on time management for completion of coursework and other tasks critical to their educational experience.
2. By meeting with student-athletes to discuss personal development in their major and in their future career options.
3. By providing personal support to student-athletes by attending games and by participating in meetings outside of the classroom designed either to further the education of the student-athlete or the mentor-mentee relationship.
4. By helping acclimate first year, transfer, and international students in athletics to the challenges of a new academic environment.
5. By serving as an advocate for student athletes by communicating academic achievements made by athletes across campus and throughout the community.
6. By assisting in the development of an institutionally supported means for faculty, students, and coaches to get to know each other better thus enhancing individual and educational relationships and mutual appreciation.

The student-athlete benefits from interactions with faculty mentors in the following ways:

1. By learning to interact with faculty in a low-pressure environment and to gain from their experience and guidance.
2. By obtaining an integrated learning experience that bridges their academic and athletic worlds.
3. By learning strategies not only for meeting the demands of both a rigorous academic and athletic schedule, but also in understanding the culture of the academic environment.
4. By acquiring strategies to succeed in the classroom at the highest levels possible.
5. By networking with their mentors and gaining access to other faculty or professionals in order to become leaders in their chosen fields.
6. By having a mentor and friend who genuinely cares about their personal growth and success as both a student and an athlete.

The structure of the Faculty Mentor Program involves pairing faculty members with athletic teams to

permit the student-athlete and faculty mentor to have an immediate connection. Faculty mentors will also advise student athletes when there is an overlap in their intellectual interests or they may recommend that student-athletes see a colleague or another faculty member with the FAM program if assistance within a specific discipline is needed. Faculty mentors will be selected to include a highly diverse group of individuals that represent a wide range of academic disciplines and sports interests.

It is our assumption that faculty mentors and coaches will work together to support student-athletes in their academic and athletic pursuits. This support gives student-athletes an integrated learning experience and bridges their academic and athletic worlds. The time committed to the program is flexible and is decided mutually by the faculty mentor and coach. Furthermore, it is our assumption that the following statements characterize the faculty mentors:

- They are interested in furthering the integration of student-athletes within the broader campus community.
- They believe that athletics play an integral role in the mission of the institution, and that athletic participation is meaningful and valuable.
- They want to provide a resource for student-athletes as they balance achieving success in athletics and in academics.
- They are interested in serving as role models who connect with student-athletes and in providing support and advice specifically on academic issues.

The long-term goal of the Faculty Mentor Program is to establish highly active mentor groups that support student-athletes in all of the NCAA sports that are represented at OU. This will be achieved through support from the Athletic Department (particularly the academic support and compliance staffs), the coaches, the Faculty Athletic Representatives, and other faculty of OU.

The Faculty Mentor Program will be enhanced in future academic years through achievements in the following areas:

1. By having at least two events per academic year with both mentors and student-athletes (recommended one event per semester).
2. By identifying new faculty that will serve as excellent mentors to student athletes (e.g. identify faculty mentors who were athletes themselves and those faculty that have a strong interest in serving in this area).
3. By providing a greater awareness and understanding of athletic issues to other faculty members not in the FAM program.
4. By hosting a social event for both established and new faculty mentors to gain support and enthusiasm for meeting these goals.
5. By better communicating the achievements of student athletes across campus and throughout the community at large.
6. By forming a Faculty Mentor Steering Committee that oversees the progress of the program and that compiles data documenting its achievements.

As we address these goals, along with new goals in the future, we will continue to fulfill the mission of the Faculty Mentor Program to increase the graduation rate and retention of student athletes as well as the rates of admission to graduate education and successful career launchings, while enhancing their academic experience at OU and preparing them for long-term success in their chosen professions. This program will also serve as a model for other universities that showcases the role that faculty mentors can play in enriching the lives of student athletes.