

**Senate Intercollegiate Athletics Committee
Annual Report 2017 – 2018
Submitted by Chris Stiller – Chair/FAR
June 30, 2018**

Membership

Faculty: Kelly Hay (CAS; Fall only), John Kim (SBA), Megan Schoen (CAS), Megan Schoen (CAS; Winter only/replaced Kelly Hay), Chris Stiller (Chair/FAR, SHS), Peter Trumbore (CAS), Virginia Uhley (School of Medicine)

Administration: John Cebelak (Professional Advising Committee), Julie Dermidoff (AP Assembly), Jeff Konya (Athletics Director/Ex-officio and non-voting through January 2018 when he left the University; replace by Padric McMeel Interim Athletic Director), Holly Kerstner (Athletics/Ex-officio and non-voting), Mari Rakijas (Athletics Compliance/Ex-officio and non-voting)

External Community: John White (Community Representative/Alumni)

Student-Athlete Advisory Council Representatives (SAAC): Sidney Santos, Bryce Stroede

Meetings

The Senate Intercollegiate Athletics Committee (SIAC) met monthly throughout the 2017-18 academic year.

Most Significant Committee Actions

- Amended/Updated End of Season Survey; Surveys now to be distributed through Athletic Viewpoint
- Amended/Updated Senior Exit Interview Survey/Questions to be clearer and more reflective of current organization of OU Athletics and NCAA/Horizon League language
- Met with Financial Aid to begin to understand complexities of financial aid for athletics and how to make the system more efficient and effective for student-athletes
- Recommendations
 - SIAC supports renovations to Lepley
 - SIAC supports continued efforts to explore the addition of men's and women's hockey
 - Continue to work with financial aid
 - Continue to explore improving transfer process for student-athletes

Summary of SAC Activities for 2017-18

September 29, 2017

Present: John Kim (SBA), Jeff Konya (Athletic Director/ Ex-officio and non-voting), Mari Rakijas (Athletic Compliance), Megan Schoen (CAS), Christine Stiller (Faculty Athletic Representative) **CHAIR**, Peter Trumbore (CAS), John White (Community Representative)

- Welcome
- Introduction of members and review of charge
- Review of Summary and Recommendations (attached)
 - Follow-up on Excused Absence Policy – ask Academic Affairs to send a reminder to faculty about the Excused Absence Policy
 - Follow-up on Withdrawal Policy – regarding partial withdrawal
 - Athletics is exploring using an outside company, Athletic Viewpoint to distribute/collate results of the End of Season Surveys. Decision pending at this time
 - Minor changes to End of Season Survey to include questions about
 - Housing
 - Availability of and knowledge about mental health services on campus
 - Minor changes made to Senior Exit Interview Questions
 - Add a question about plans after college (Job? Work? Grad School?)
 - Question about sports psychologist

- End of Season Surveys/Senior Exit Interviews – Results
 - Major areas identified as concerns on End of Season Survey and Senior Exit Interviews
 - Publicity
 - Meals – getting much better; more variety of nutritious foods, but not enough variety in proteins
 - Sports Medicine –
 1. Getting better, but still changeover in staff
 2. Communication within Sports Medicine and among Sports Medicine, Strength and Conditioning and Coaches – still could be better
 3. Referrals to other professionals (e.g. MD, PT)
 - Coaches respect for academic obligations – e.g. getting out of practice late on a regular basis, changing practice time with little notice
 - Head coaches – several coaches have been replaced – e.g Women’s Soccer, Women’s Softball
 - Transportation – long hours on bus; poor bus service
 - Practice facilities for Men’s and Women’s Basketball and Volleyball – shared space makes it hard to schedule practices
 - Softball/Baseball facilities are in poor condition
 - Major areas identified as strengths on the End of Season Survey (≤5% dissatisfied)
 - Administrative Staff
 - Academic Advising and Support
 - Assistant/Volunteer/Graduate Assistant Coaches
 - Recruitment
 - Strength and Conditioning – facilities and equipment
- Update from Athletics
 - Lepley – Still exploring funding
 - Horizon League Basketball Tournament – March 2-6 at Little Ceasars Arena
 - Transfer Policy – No update
 - Faculty Appreciation Activity – Women’s Basketball Game on February 15
- Goals for 2017/18
 - Continue to revise End of Season Surveys/Senior Exit as needed
 - Meet with Financial Aid to gather information regarding problems with financial aid for student-athletes
 - Continue to explore issues with transfers for student-athletes

October 20, 2017 Minutes

Present: Joh Cebelak (PAC), Julie Dermidoff (AP Assembly), Kellie Hay (CAS), Holly Kerstner (Senior Woman Administrator, Athletics/Ex-officio and non-voting), John Kim (SBA), Mari Rikijas (Athletics Compliance/Ex-officio and non-voting), Christine Stiller (Faculty Athletic Representative) **CHAIR**

- End of Season Surveys/Senior Exit Interviews – Update
 - Athletic Viewpoint approved by Athletics to distribute End of Season Surveys. Chris Stiller will continue to work with them to get OU surveys finalized
 - Changes to Survey – partially based on Athletic Viewpoint template; Athletic Viewpoint compares Athletics across universities so they need similarity in wording; we can add some of our own questions
 - John Cebelak had asked for more specific information regarding feedback from last year’s about academic advisors outside of athletics.
 - Chris reviewed the student comments from last year’s survey results about advising – some comments were very general (e.g. they were good, they were not good); more specific comments were about not getting back to students in a timely manner and some problems about limited availability for appointments when the student-athletes were available.
 - There was a discussion about the possibility of having evening appointments. John will take this suggestion back to the PAC for discussion.

- Faculty Academic Mentor – Consideration for adoption
 - Chris provided a copy of a previous version of a plan to institute a Faculty Athletic Mentor that was developed by Robby Stewart, the previous FAR. This plan was originally thought to possibly too involved and was not adopted at the time, although committee members thought that the idea was good.
 - SIAC members should review the document for discussion at the next meeting – modifications, questions, decision regarding instituting a Faculty Academic Mentor program.
- Student Athlete Well Being – Safety Training Discussion: Chris brought up the idea of having safety training for student-athletes in order to facilitate student-athlete well being (see list below); Chris will bring this idea to SAAC for their feedback.
 - Fire
 - Emergency Procedures for Tornado/Other Disaster
 - Steps for Lock Down
 - Active shooter
 - Bomb Threat
 - CPR/AED
 - Suicide Prevention – already done within athletics
 - Psychological Emergency –student/faculty/staff
 - Domestic Violence – already done within athletics through One Love program
- Financial Aid Concerns
 - Holly brought up some concerns she has about financial aid issues that seem to be negatively affecting student-athletes (e.g. inconsistent application of rules; applying policies that are not written; having university aid being treated as federal aid; Financial aid personnel not being made aware of information from their supervisors; financial aid giving academic advice to students; problems with the appeal process).
 - SIAC members agreed that these are issues that should be discussed. Chris Stiller will contact Cindy Hermson and ask her to attend a SIAC meeting to clarify financial aid issues that are/could be impacting student-athletes.
 - Chris Stiller will also check with Bryce Stroede (OU SAAC President) to see if these types of issues have been brought to the attention of OU Student Congress.
- Update from Athletics
 - Lepley – no change
 - Transfer Policy – nothing to report; Julie Dermidoff who was a member of the Transfer Committee last year will check to see if anything more has happened with transfer policies and will report back to the SIAC at the next meeting
 - Faculty Appreciation Activity – Women’s Basketball Game on February 15.
- Change of date for next meeting to November 10, 2017. Chris Stiller will send an email letting SIAC members know that the next meeting has been changed from November 17 to November 10 due to unforeseen circumstances in Chris’s schedule.
- Other
 - NHL – faculty members asked about a rumor that OU will have a new ice arena and both men’s and women’s hockey team next year. Chris and Holly clarified that the rumor is not true. Oakland has been chosen to participate in a feasibility study that is being conducted by the National Hockey League and the National Hockey League Players Association. Four other universities have also been selected to participate in a feasibility study. Holly reported that the feasibility study is a two year process. SIAC members were encouraged to dispel the rumors about the hockey teams/arena.
 - Possible other solutions to dispel the rumor – put the information in the Friday announcements or on the OU website, send an email from administration describing the study and what is really happening. Chris will look into these options.

November 10, 2017 Minutes

Members Present: Joh Cebelak (PAC), Julie Dermidoff (AP Assembly), Holly Kerstner (Senior Woman Administrator, Athletics/Ex-officio and non-voting), John Kim (SBA), Jeff Konya (Athletic Director/ Ex-officio and non-voting), Mari Rikijas (Athletic Compliance/Ex-officio and non-voting), Sidney Santos (Student-Athlete), Christine Stiller (Faculty Athletic Representative) **CHAIR**, Bryce Stroede (Student-Athlete), Peter Trumbore (CAS), Virginia Uhley (SOM) , John White (Community Representative)

- End of Season Surveys/Senior Exit Interviews –Chris updated the Committee members on the progress with the End of Season Surveys
 - Athletic Viewpoint approved – Chris Stiller is continuing to work with Athletic Viewpoint to finalize the 2017-18 EOS. Surveys for fall teams should be sent out by Thanksgiving.
 - Changes to Survey – Athletic Viewpoint tried to incorporate all of our requests for including questions, but could not include all questions due to length of the survey and desirability to compare results with other universities.
- Student Athlete Well Being – Chris reported that SAAC is in favor of having some short presentations about about safety procedures for Athletics. Chris will work with SAAC and Athletics administration to arrange for getting safety procedures information to the student-athletes during the winter semester and next academic year.
- Financial Aid Concerns: Cindy Hermsen was at another meeting and had to cancel. Chris will contact her to reschedule for the December meeting.
- Holly Kerstner and Jeff Konya presented an overview of how the Academic Progress Report works and led a discussion on the new awarding of NCAA money for a satisfactory level of APR.
- Faculty Academic Mentor – Tabled for future meetings
- Update from Athletics
 - Lepley – no change
 - Transfer Policy – no change; Julie Dermidoff will continue to update the SIAC on any changes in transfer policies that will impact student-athletes.
 - Faculty Appreciation Activity Reminder - Women’s Basketball Game on February 15.
- Next meeting is December December 8; 2:00 pm; Elliott Room

December 8, 2017 Minutes

Members Present: Joh Cebelak (PAC), Julie Dermidoff (AP Assembly), Holly Kerstner (Senior Woman Administrator, Athletics/Ex-officio and non-voting), John Kim (SBA), Mari Rikijas (Athletic Compliance/Ex-officio and non-voting), Christine Stiller (Faculty Athletic Representative) **CHAIR**, Peter Trumbore (CAS)

- End of Season Surveys/Senior Exit Interviews – Update
 - Chris reviewed the status of the EOS for Fall sports – Student-athletes are continuing to submit surveys; Deadline is end of December
 - Chris will review the Senior Exit Interview/Survey document and we will discuss changes at our next meeting.
- Financial Aid Concerns: Questions for Cindy Hermsen
 - Cindy Hermsen, Director of Financial Aid attended the meeting to discuss some of the concerns of the SIAC; she reviewed some of the reasons for issues with financial aid and what she considered to be an overlap with federal aid and athletic aid; and she reviewed how students (all students) could lose aid depending on the grade they received in a course versus if they drop a course.
 - SIAC members were still not clear about the rationale for some of what Cindy presented and will ask Cindy to come back to a future meeting to further clarify these issue.
- Faculty Academic Mentor – Consideration for adoption/will address in the winter semester
 - Chris Stiller sent a copy to all SIAC members.

- SIAC members should review the document for discussion at the next meeting – modifications, questions, decision regarding instituting a Faculty Academic Mentor program.
- Update from Athletics
 - Rumors – hockey and football; Holly clarified that there are currently no plans for either a hockey or football team; there is a feasibility being conducted at Oakland regarding the possibility of starting both a men’s and women’s hockey team; results from the survey are not yet available.
 - Faculty Appreciation Activity Reminder - Women’s Basketball Game on February 15.
- Chris Stiller reminded Committee members to return the form asking about their availability for next semester.
- Next meeting January 22, 2018

January 22, 2017 Minutes

Members Present: Joh Cebelak (PAC), Megan Schoen (CAS), Julie Dermidoff (AP Assembly), Holly Kerstner (Senior Woman Administrator, Athletics/Ex-officio and non-voting), John Kim (SBA), Padraic McMeel (Interim Athletic Director/ Ex-officio and non-voting), Mari Rikijas (Athletic Compliance/Ex-officio and non-voting), Sidney Santos (Student-Athlete), Megan Schoen (CAS), Christine Stiller (Faculty Athletic Representative) **CHAIR**, Bryce Stroede (Student-Athlete), Peter Trumbore (CAS), Virginia Uhley (SOM) , John White (Community Representative)

- Committee Update – Kelly Hay is unable to attend the Winter 2018 meetings; she has been replaced by Megan Schoen (CAS). Welcome Megan!
- Update on Athletic Director (AD)
 - Jeff Konya left to go to Northeastern
 - Padraic McMeel is the Interim AD
 - Glenn McIntosh is the search chair; a Search firm will be used; Committee not finalized at this time
- End of Season Surveys/Senior Exit Interviews – Update
 - Athletic Viewpoint completed collection of survey data for Fall sports.
 - Response rate is as follows:
 - Volleyball - 17 of 17; 100%
 - Women's Soccer - 21 of 25; 84%
 - Men's Soccer - 16 of 27; 59%
 - Women's Cross Country - 9 of 11; 82%
 - Men's Cross Country -10 of 12; 83%
 - Total – 73 of 92; 79%
 - Chris will begin looking at the data this month.
 - Winter Sports Survey will be sent out the first week in March
 - Senior Exit Interview/Survey – sent to SIAC members; reviewed and made minor changes in wording/additional questions
- Financial Aid Concerns: Questions for Cindy Hermsen
 - Horizon League will be on campus in two weeks to talk with Athletics about issues related to financial aid
 - Cindy was not available and will be invited to another SIAC meeting in the future to continue this discussion after the Horizon League meeting.
- Faculty Academic Mentor – Consideration for adoption/will address in the winter semester
 - Chris Stiller sent a copy to all SIAC members.
 - SIAC members should review the document for discussion at the next meeting – modifications, questions, decision regarding instituting a Faculty Academic Mentor program.
- Update from Athletics

- Hockey Survey Update – completed; OU would be a good fit; would need to raise money to support this effort; SIAC supports this effort
- Faculty Appreciation Activity Reminder - Women’s Basketball Game on February 15.
- Men’s and Women’s Basketball Championships – Motor City Madness – March 2-6, 2018 at Little Ceasars Arena

February Meeting

- Cancelled due to no urgent issues to discuss

March Meeting

- Meeting cancelled; Chair ill

April 2, 2018 Minutes

Members Present: Joh Cebelak (PAC), Julie Dermidoff (AP Assembly), Holly Kerstner (Senior Woman Administrator, Athletics/Ex-officio and non-voting), John Kim (SBA), Padraic McMeel (Interim Athletic Director/ Ex-officio and non-voting), Mari Rikijas (Athletic Compliance/Ex-officio and non-voting), Megan Schoen (CAS), Christine Stiller (Faculty Athletic Representative) **CHAIR**; Guest Present: Charlie Tortorici (Compliance Coordinator)

Members Absent: Sidney Santos (Student-Athlete), Bryce Stroede (Student-Athlete), Peter Trumbore (CAS), Virginia Uhley (SOM) , John White (Community Representative)

- Update on Athletic Director (AD)
 - Glenn McIntosh is the Search chair
 - Chris Stiller is on the Search Committee
 - Will be moving forward with hiring a Search firm in the near future
- End of Season Surveys/Senior Exit Interviews – Update
 - Athletic Viewpoint completed collection of survey data for Winter sports.
 - Overall data from fall is positive; Chris will look at all data to prepare a report for the President once Spring sports surveys are complete
 - Senior Exit Interview/Survey – sent to all seniors/graduate students in last year of eligibility; Chris Stiller has completed/has scheduled 12 interviews. Holly Kerstner and Evan Dermidoff will assist with completing the rest of the interviews due to time constraints on the part of the students; together they have scheduled 4 exit interview meetings.
- Faculty Academic Mentor – Consideration for adoption/will address next academic year
- Possible Recommendations to the President?
 - Letter of support for Lepley renovations; Pad will send Chris an update of the changes; Chris will write the recommendation to forward to the President
 - Letter of support for addition of Men’s and Women’s hockey if funds become available
 - Continue to work with financial aid to explore resolving financial aid issues
 - Continue to explore transfer issues
- Update from Athletics
 - Meeting with Horizon League regarding financial aid issues – Mari discussed the meeting; does not feel financial aid always follows the procedures they reviewed with Horizon League; Mari will report more fully in the fall
 - Forward Progress meeting – identified some areas that could be approved, but overall not that helpful
 - Hockey Study Update – company somewhat overestimated revenues; if funding is secured, the president would support this expansion of Athletics
 - Faculty Appreciation Activity - Women’s Basketball Game on February 15 was very successful
- Black and Gold Awards – April 16, 2018/in the O’Rena