



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2012-2013  
ATHLETICS COMMITTEE**

**University of North Alabama  
Florence, Alabama**

Dr. Amanda Hofacker Coffman  
*Committee Chair*

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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:

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

Dr. Amanda Hofacker Coffman served as Committee Chair for 2012-13 and Dr. Lisa Clayton is expected to serve as chair for the 2013-14 academic year. During 2012-13, the Athletics Committee initiated the NCAA Division-I Work Group. With the Division-I Work Group, a working body within the Athletics Committee, the strategic tasks of the Athletics Committee have been evenly divided between the work group, the Gender Equity Sub-Committee, and the Minority Opportunity Sub-Committee. These three groups ensure that the athletics program is compliant with regard to NCAA, Gulf South Conference, state and federal law procedures, as well as gender equity and minority opportunities. The NCAA Division-I Work Group appointed Mr. Mark Linder as chair, and began focusing on gaining a thorough understanding of the workgroup's mission and the knowledge that is necessary to complete said mission. The Gender Equity Sub-Committee approved a new Strategic Plan and found the Athletics Program completely compliant with respect to gender equity. The Minority Opportunity Sub-Committee spearheaded the Minority Student Athlete Mentoring Program. In addition to the work of the subcommittees, the Athletics Committee focused discussions on the welfare of student athletes, particularly in the areas of budget concerns that effect student-athlete scholarships and appropriate accommodations.



## 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
3. Review and monitor (as necessary, assist in developing) all compliance procedures and recommend institutional procedural changes based upon changes in NCAA rules
4. Assign and document responsibilities for compliance tasks
5. Work to maintain the proper perspective of athletic competition within the university life of the student-athlete
6. Monitor the academic performance and progress made by student-athletes
7. Oversee all programs designed to ensure the academic success, personal development and personal welfare of student-athletes
8. Handle all proposals affecting University policy according to section C.2 "Shared Governance Procedure for Policy Change Recommendations"
9. To submit a final written report electronically by the first contract day of the academic year to the President with a copy sent to the Chair of the Shared Governance Executive Committee

## III. The Committee met on the following dates:

September 20, 2012; November 1, 2012; November 29, 2012; January 24, 2012; March 12, 2013; and April 16, 2013.

- A. A quorum was present for each of the above meeting dates.
- B. The minutes for these committee meetings were recorded by Peggy Wingo who serves as the Senior Administrative Secretary for the Department of Athletics. Minutes were reviewed by the chair and forwarded to the committee via email prior to each meeting.

## IV. What were the Committee's actions and accomplishments this year relative to each of the items of the charge?

1.
  - a) The committee was in support of the yard sale and fan tailgate, which served as an outreach activity hosted by UNA athletics before the men's and women's basketball game in Flowers Hall.

- 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 may arise from the relationship of a student-athlete with his or her coach. The contact person in such cases is Dr. Pat Roden, Faculty Athletics Representative with compliant/grievance.
- d) Throughout the 2012-2013 academic year, the Athletics Committee discussed the possibility of the Athletics Department purchasing i-pads or electronic tablets for student athletes in lieu of the current book allowance. Mr. Mark Linder met with representatives from Apple Store and Follett Book Store to discuss this further. As books are becoming increasingly expensive and available electronically, many committee members were in favor of this idea. However, many committee members could see this being problematic as not all books are available electronically.
- e) To further ensure the personal welfare of student-athletes and gain additional insight on the housing accommodations available for student athletes, Ms. Audrey Mitchell and Mr. Kevin Jacques were invited and attended an Athletics Committee meeting on November 1, 2012. The committee gained a better understanding of Ms. Mitchell's position as an auxiliary of the university and the finances available for repairs on student apartment complexes. The committee learned that the students must vacate the apartment for the completion of renovations, and the student cannot reclaim the same apartment after completion of renovations. The timeframe for these renovations is on a case by case basis. The committee was informed of structural damage to the Twin Oaks complex,

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?



- a) The Committee will continue to assist the Athletic Department in working toward Gender and Minority equity in order to ensure continued progress in these areas as required by the NCAA.
- b) The Committee will continue to work with the Division I Work Group to assist in the transition from NCAA Division II to Division I Athletics at the University of North Alabama

VII. What are the Committee's weaknesses?

The committee spends much time discussing how to better the personal welfare and development of the University of North Alabama student athletes. The topics discussed most thoroughly this year included, budget concerns that effect student-athlete scholarships; adequate accommodations particular for female student-athletes; and the increased travel time that is occurring with the Gulf South Conference schedule and the effects of missed class time by the student athletes. The committee has been in agreement that actions are necessary to improve these situations to ensure the welfare of the UNA student athletes; however, very few formal charges have been proposed or taken. In addition, student participation in committee meetings has increased in the past year; however, continues to be sporadic.