



**ANNUAL REPORT
2013-2014
ATHLETICS COMMITTEE**

**University of North Alabama
Florence, Alabama**

Dr. Lisa Clayton
Committee Chair

May 22, 2015
Date Submitted

Submitted to: Dr. Kenneth Kitts
President, University of North Alabama

Date Received

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

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*)
- Mr. Mark Linder (*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. Lisa Clayton served as Committee Chair for 2013-14 and Dr. Miranda Bowie is expected to serve as chair for the 2014-15 academic year. During 2013-14, the Athletics Committee continued 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 continued 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 continued working toward the Strategic Plan. The Minority Opportunity Sub-Committee continued the Minority Student Athlete Mentoring Program. Christa Raney and Daryl Brown served as Chairs of the Minority Opportunity 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 19, 201; November 7, 2013; January 28, 2014; April 8, 2014; and May 5, 2014

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? (Minutes Attached)

Athletics Committee Meeting

September 19, 2013

Present: Mrs. Lisa Clayton, Mrs. Christa Raney, Dr. Daryl Brown, Mr. Austin Smith, Mrs. Doris McDaniel, Dr. Pat Roden, Mr. Todd Vardaman, Mrs. Amanda Kuntz, proxy for Mr. Ben Baker, Ms. Morgan Presley, proxy for Mrs. Lisa Burton

Absent: Dr. Miranda Bowie, Dr. Steve Smith, Mr. David Shields, Mr. Jenson Joiner, Mr. Walter Hartley

The Minority Opportunity Committee and the Gender Equity Committee are sub-committees of the Athletics Committee. The chair of each sub-committee must be a member of the Athletics Committee. Mrs. Debbie Williams is the Senior Woman Administrator. She will chair the Gender Equity Committee. Christa Raney and Daryl Brown were nominated as co-chair of the Minority Opportunity Committee. The motion to nominate Christa Raney and Daryl Brown for co-chairs of the Minority Opportunity Committee was accepted by Pat Roden and seconded by Doris McDaniel.

Mr. Mark Linder updated the committee on the following:

- The Policy and Procedure Guide is updated each year and reviewed with UNA Athletics department staff members at the staff meeting in August of each year. Administrators, coaches, and student-athletes must share a total commitment to abiding by the rules and regulations of the NCAA, the GSC, and the institution in the endeavor to be successful.
- The charges against the UNA student athletes in the spring of 2013 who were suspended from UNA were dismissed.
- There is no updated information for the Division I transition.
- Athletics Department Staff members with new positions or were hired recently:
 - Tyler Unsicker, External Operations
 - Debbie Williams, Business Manager, Senior Woman Administrator
 - Jennifer Sharp, Temporary Employee, Ticket Manager
 - Ashley Cozart, Head Softball Coach
 - Missy Tiber, Head Women's Basketball Coach
 - Chris Walker, Head Soccer Coach
 - Jason Vaughn, Head Golf Coach

Dr. Pat Roden asked for consideration of an honor society for student athletes. Student athletes would be invited to join the honor society. It would cost \$100.00 to establish a chapter and \$50.00 each year after. Dr. Pat Roden would be the RSO advisor. Mrs. Christa Raney made the motion to bring the honor society on the University of North Alabama campus. Mr. Mark Linder and Mr. Daryl Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The Athletics Committee will meet in October 2013. The meeting was adjourned.

Athletics Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 7, 2013

Present: Dr. Lisa Clayton, Dr. Miranda Bowie, Mr. Jeremy Byers (proxy for Ben Baker), Mr. Daryl Brown, Ms. Morgan Presley (proxy for Lisa Burton), Ms. Debbie Williams

Absent: Mr. Mark Linder, Mrs. Christa Raney, Mr. Austin Smith, Mrs. Doris McDaniel, Dr. Pat Roden, Dr. Steve Smith, Mr. David Shields, Mr. Jenson Joiner, Mr. Walter Hartley

Dr. Lisa Clayton asked for approval of the minutes for the September 19, 2013 meeting. There were no additions or corrections. Mrs. Debbie Williams made the motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Daryl Brown seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted as read.

The Minority Opportunity Committee hosted a breakfast for members of the Minority Student Athlete Mentoring program on November 6, 2013. All mentees were present. The mentors that were not present have contacted their mentees. Mrs. Christa Raney and Mr. Daryl Brown are co-chairs of the Minority Opportunity Committee. Christa and Daryl will send an activity log to the mentors. The activity log will serve as a follow up and to get ideas from other mentors.

Debbie Williams updated the committee of the Gender Equity Committee. The committee will update the Strategic Plan module.

Mark Linder is travelling to Pensacola, FL to watch the UNA soccer team play in the GSC Division II Soccer tournament. Mr. Todd Vardaman updated the committee on the following:

- The football team is ranked 4th in the regional ranking.
- The volleyball team is playing in Pensacola, FL.
- Men's and Women's Basketball will play in Flowers Hall on November 12, 2013.
- Grade reports were turned in on October 31, 2013.
- The Athletics department staff will meet on November 12, 2013 to discuss 2014 Legislation proposals.

The Athletics Committee will meet in January 2014. Mr. Todd Vardaman made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Miranda Bowie seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned

Athletics Committee Meeting

January 28, 2014

Stevens Hall

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Athletics Committee was called to order at 11:00 am on January 28, 2014 in Stevens Hall.

II. Roll Call

Members present were: Dr. Miranda Bowie, Dr. Lisa Clayton, Mr. Ben Baker, Mr. Mark Linder, Mrs. Christa Raney, Mr. Todd Vardaman, Mr. David Shields, Mrs. Lisa Burton, Ms. Donna Tipps, Dr. Pat Roden

Absent: Mr. Daryl Brown, Mrs. Debbie Williams, Mr. Austin Smith, Mrs. Doris McDaniel, Mr. Jenson Joiner, Mr. Walter Hartley

III. Approval of the Minutes for the November 7, 2013 Meeting

Mrs. Christa Raney made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Ben Baker seconded. All present approved the minutes as presented.

IV. Minority Opportunity Committee Report

The Student Athlete Minority Mentoring Program was launched in November 2013. Mentors from the mentoring program are invited to attend the Minority Opportunity Committee meeting on February 11, 2014, to share ideas, experiences and gather information they have had with their mentee. Dr. Pat Roden stated that she had material and information regarding recommendations for mentor programs that she would share with the Minority Opportunity Committee members.

V. Gender Equity Committee Report

Mr. Mark Linder, Mrs. Debbie Williams, and Mrs. Peggy Wingo have met twice to review the Gender Equity Strategic Plan. The plan has been updated and will be reviewed by Gender Equity committee members in March 2014.

VI. Athletic Director's Report

Mr. Mark Linder stated that there are 3 projects to focus on in 2014.

- 2014 Football Schedule - Almost finalized
- The OVC presidents will meet on February 10, 2014. A packet with UNA information will be sent to OVC for the presidents to view at the meeting.
- The funding is secured for the UNA Athletics department weight room.

VII. New Business

The commissioner for the Gulf South Conference, Mr. Nathan Salant, has retired. The search for a new commissioner is in progress.

On November 23, 2013, the UNA football team played Tuskegee at Braly Stadium. The NCAA mandated that the UNA students be moved from the seating on the visitor's side to the home side of UNA. Mr. Mark Linder is in discussion with Dr. Bill Cale, UNA President, regarding this issue with the NCAA.

At the NCAA convention in January 2014 in San Diego, CA, a summer orientation bridge program was discussed. The program could be a leadership training program that would be beneficial to student-athletes prior to the start of the fall semester.

VIII. Adjourn

Dr. Pat Roden made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Dr. Lisa Clayton seconded the motion.

Athletics Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Self Field House

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Athletics Committee was called to order at 11:00 am on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 in the Self Field House.

II. Roll Call

Members present were: Dr. Lisa Clayton, Mrs. Lisa Burton, Mrs. Debbie Williams, Mr. Todd Vardaman, Mr. Mark Linder, Mrs. Christa Raney, Mrs. Doris McDaniel, Mr. Ben Baker, Mr. David Shields, and Mr. Daryl Brown

Absent: Dr. Miranda Bowie, Ms. Donna Tipps, Dr. Pat Roden, Mr. Austin Smith, Mr. Jenson Joiner, Mr. Walter Hartley

III. Approval of the Minutes for the January 28, 2014 Meeting

Mrs. Christa Raney made the motion to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2014 meeting, and Mrs. Doris McDaniel seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as submitted.

IV. Minority Opportunity Committee Report

The Minority Opportunity Committee met on March 4, 2014. The committee discussed the Minority Opportunity Student Athlete Mentoring program. The meeting was productive. One of the ideas from the meeting was to give the mentors a \$10 gift certificate to Frostbite that would be used for both the mentor and mentee. Daryl Brown and Christa Raney are working on guidelines and activities for the entire mentoring program.

In October 2014, a mentoring conference will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Submission to attend the workshop is due May 15, 2014. Christa Raney will submit a proposal to the Office of Diversity for possible funding for the conference. Christa Raney stated a mentoring conference would be beneficial for the mentoring program.

V. Gender Equity Committee

The Gender Equity Committee will meet on Thursday, April 24, 2014.

VI. Athletic Director Report

- The Weight room is in progress of being built.
- In the near future, an Academic Resource Center for student athletes will be in the Self Field House.
- A brochure that was mailed to the OVC presidents in January 2014 was viewed by the Athletics Committee members. The brochure included the University of North Alabama Athletic Department strategic plan, timeline, geographic fit, academics, student athlete welfare, and facilities information. Once an invitation is secured from the OVC, another publication of the brochure will be mailed to the UNA stakeholders. The OVC will meet again in late May 2014.
- House Bill of 424 was passed in May 2013. At the time of registration, a full-time undergraduate student enrolled at an institution whose Board of Trustees has authorized resident tuition rates to apply to those non-resident students receiving a partial or full scholarship award in recognition of a particular talent or ability, provided each student possessed the talent or ability at the time of initial enrollment and maintains continuous scholarship eligibility at that institution. The bill has potential benefits for UNA. The UNA Board of Trustees will receive the bill at the June or September 2014 meeting. The parameters of the bill are established by the institutions.
- Division I work group meetings will be set up once an invitation has been received from the OVC.
- The GSC hired Matt Wilson as the new commissioner.

VII. Adjourn

Mrs. Lisa Burton made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mrs. Doris McDaniel seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Athletics Committee Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2014

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Athletics Committee was called to order at 10:00 am on Tuesday, May 5, 2014

II. Roll Call

Present: Mr. Daryl Brown, Mrs. Doris McDaniel, Dr. Lisa Clayton, Mr. David Shields, Mrs. Debbie Williams, Dr. Pat Roden, Dr. Miranda Bowie, Mr. Mark Linder, Mr. Todd Vardaman, Ms. Donna Tipps

Absent: Mrs. Lisa Burton, Mrs. Christa Raney, Mr. Ben Baker, Mr. Austin Smith, Mr. Jenson Joiner, Mr. Walter Hartley

III. Approval of the Minutes for the May 5, 2014 meeting.

Mr. Daryl Brown made the motion to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2014 meeting and Mrs. Doris McDaniel seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as submitted.

IV. Minority Opportunity Committee Report

Mr. Daryl Brown and Mrs. Christa Raney had met before the Athletics Committee meeting to discuss the mentoring program. Some of the ideas were:

- A kickoff at the beginning of each semester with both the mentors and mentees
- A walking tour of the campus (group activity)
- Chart events
- Emails year round recruiting mentors
- Training session of the new software (replacing Angel) with both mentors and mentees

V. Gender Equity Committee Report

The Gender Equity Committee met on April 24, 2014. The Gender Equity Committee approved the updated Gender Equity Planning Guide.

VI. Athletics Director Report

Mr. Mark Linder proposed a plan to submit to the Strategic Planning and Budget Study Committee scheduled to meet in May 2014. The proposal is to fully fund scholarships at the NCAA Division II level. Dr. Pat Roden moved to endorse the proposal and Mrs. Doris McDaniel seconded the motion. The proposal was unanimously approved.

The OVC met in April 2014 to view the financial information for UNA.

VII. New Business

Dr. Miranda Bowie will be the chair for the Athletics Committee for 2014-15.

VIII. Adjourn

Mr. Daryl Brown made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Mrs. Doris McDaniel seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

V. What were the Committee's formal recommendations this year?

Mr. Mark Linder proposed a plan to submit to the Strategic Planning and Budget Study Committee scheduled to meet in May 2014. The proposal is to fully fund scholarships at the NCAA Division II level. Dr. Pat Roden moved to endorse the proposal and Mrs. Doris McDaniel seconded the motion. The proposal was unanimously approved.

VI. What does the Committee plan to accomplish?

A. In the coming year?

- a) The Committee will continue working with the Division I Work Group to ensure the University of North Alabama is DI ready.
- b) The Committee will work with the Gender Equity Subcommittee to institute the amended strategic plan.
- c) The Athletics Committee and the Minority Opportunity Sub-Committee will continue to monitor the progress of the Minority Mentoring Program.
- d) 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.