

University of North Alabama

Athletic Committee Minutes

January 30, 2026

Pierce Hospitality Suite at 2:30 PM

Members Present: S. Lyons, D. Williams, M. Nelson, C. Wise (Proxy K. Hanbery), A. Byrd (Proxy T. Barrientos), M. Ellis, L. Maddox, A. Quiros, E. Thornton, C. Dalrymple, L. Holder, J. Lyde, A. Milwee, S. Infanger, C. Raney, J. Ray, J. Looney, K. White, S. Kennemer, S. Gaertner. **Guests Present:** M. Barksdale

Members Absent: M. Nelson

1. Approval of Agenda

a. Discussion:

The meeting was called to order and the agenda was confirmed. No revisions or additions were proposed during the meeting.

b. **Action:** A motion to approve the agenda was made by K. Hanbery and seconded by C. Raney. The agenda was approved unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes (September 2025)

a. **Discussion:** The minutes from the April 2025 meeting had been distributed via email and were approved virtually prior to the meeting. These minutes have been submitted for official record.

b. **Action:** No further action was proposed.

3. Minority Opportunity Workgroup Report

a. **Discussion:** C. Raney reported she and J. Lyde met in January to update the roster and to plan the spring calendar. The Scholar-Athlete Mentoring Program currently has 25 student-athlete mentees and 25 faculty or staff mentors, for a total of 50 participants this semester. Several student-athletes were lost to the transfer portal. Three events are planned for the spring semester: Esports Night on Monday, February 13; Bingo Night on Monday, March 16; and the Elite Speaker Series, date in April to be determined.

b. **Action:** N/A

4. Gender Equity Workgroup Report

a. **Discussion:** D. Williams recommended to the committee that we let the Minority Opportunity and the Gender Equity workgroups sunset on January 31 as scheduled. The work of these groups can live on within the Athletics Committee as on-going agenda items. Updates on the Mentor/Mentee program can be given each Athletics Committee meeting which was under the Minority work group. An update on the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act (EADA) can be given each year following its due date in October. The EADA report is made available in Admissions as well as the Athletic Director's office.

b. **Action:** S. Lyons indicated that the topic of sunsetting the two workgroups would be open for discussion during New Business.

5. Compliance Report

a. **Discussion:** A. Milwee-Hovater and Athletic Director J. Looney combined to provide an update on compliance and student-athlete grades. Final grades for the Fall 2025 academic semester have been provided to the head coaches. Overall department GPA for all student-athletes was 3.25. Women's golf led all sports with a GPA of 3.75. Below is a summary of information, including overall GPA for each team.

- i. 340 student-athletes
- ii. 63 student-athletes had a 4.0 GPA
- iii. 244 student-athletes had a 3.0 or higher GPA
- iv. Graduated 17 student-athletes, and 11 of the 17 were ASUN honors
- v. 19 consecutive semesters with department GPA above 3.0
- vi. 10th time in the last ten semesters with a department GPA above 3.2
- vii. Second highest department Fall GPA on record
- viii. Individual team GPAs
 1. Women's golf – 3.75
 2. Soccer – 3.74 (ties highest recorded team GPA)
 3. Beach volleyball – 3.71
 4. Women's tennis – 3.65 (highest team GPA since Spring 2019)
 5. Softball – 3.63
 6. Men's golf – 3.62
 7. Volleyball – 3.48
 8. Women's cross-country – 3.45
 9. Women's basketball – 3.35
 10. Baseball – 3.34 (highest team GPA since Fall 2020)
 11. Men's cross-country – 3.24
 12. Men's tennis – 3.19
 13. Football – 2.74
 14. Men's basketball – 2.67

b. **Action:** No further action was proposed.

6. Athletic Director Report

a. **Discussion:** Athletic Director J. Looney indicated that 28 football student-athletes went into transfer portal. Currently, we have signed 34 football student-athletes. All but two of these 34 got into full-term Spring classes, and those were enrolled in 2nd 8-week term classes. Athletics has worked closely with the Registrar, Admissions, Housing, Financial Aid, and various other departments on campus to assist with getting these students into school so we can help them be successful. Also, regarding flag football, ten student-athletes currently have been signed. Looking for a roster of 18-25 student-athletes. Flag football season will begin Spring 2027. Head coach search is ongoing and hoping to finalize search in mid-February. There are currently two finalists.

b. **Action:** No further action was proposed.

7. Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) Report

a. **Discussion:** The FAR report to UNA Faculty Senate on 8 January 2026 was done earlier than previous years to proactively facilitate communication

between faculty and the FAR in heading off student-athlete issues, particularly attendance, which is always a challenge in the spring semester. Subsequently, the FAR was contacted by faculty and assisted with concerns of travel/attendance of student athletes. During President Kitts' address at the beginning of the same faculty senate meeting, he mentioned finding an old document from Fall 1997 that showed a cumulative GPA of 2.54 for UNA student-athletes compared with the current 3.25. The FAR communicated the improved APR (Academic Progress Rate) score and student-athlete successes, including four volleyball Lions named to 2025 Academic All-District VB team and four soccer Lions named to the CSC Academic All-District team to the faculty senate. Senators were also made aware of the new sports for Fall 2026 and the FAR fielded a few questions on those programs. The senators were also updated on the athletic facilities under construction.

b. **Action:** No further action was proposed.

8. **Old Business**

a. **Discussion:** There was no old business.

b. **Action:** N/A

9. **New Business**

a. **Discussion:** S. Lyons initiated discussion on sunseting the Minority Opportunity and Gender Equity workgroups. This topic had been brought to his attention by Ms. Renee Vandiver in an email indicating that these workgroups had been formed in 2021, with intention of them sunseting after five years. S. Lyons distributed this to the committee previously via email where some discussion ensued, and further discussion ensued during this meeting. During her report for the Gender Equity workgroup, D. Williams explained that the issues and ongoing work involved with these workgroups could simply continue as on-going agenda items within the UAC. The committee unanimously approved this plan, and S. Lyons indicated he would inform Ms. Vandiver of the UAC's intention to allow the workgroups to sunset as planned. Following up on this discussion, it was suggested by S. Infanger that the charge of the committee be revisited and possibly amended to better capture the mission of the UAC.

b. **Action:** UAC member Ansley Quiros volunteered to take the lead and form a subcommittee to consider changes to the UAC charge and to present a recommendation at the April 2026 UAC meeting.

10. **Adjournment**

Action: The meeting was adjourned by S. Lyons.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Dr. T. Scott Lyons
Athletic Committee Chair
March 2, 2026
2025-2026