

**University of North Alabama**

**Athletics Committee Minutes**

**September 20, 2024**

**Pierce Hospitality Suite at 1:00 PM**

Members Present: Dr. Jeff Ray, Dr. KC White, Dr. Lee Renfroe (Proxy for Dr. Lauren Killen), Dr. Scott Lyons, Dr. Scott Infanger, Mr. Evan Thornton, Ms. Debbie Williams, Ms. Christa Raney, Ms. Corrie Dalrymple, Ms. Laurie Holder, Ms. Jada Winston (SGA), Ms. Abigail Kusz (SGA), Ms. Minnette Ellis, Dr. Josh Looney, Dr. Janae Lyde, Dr. Melanie Looser

Members Absent: Mr. Will Driver (SGA)

Members Excused: Ms. Kate Hanbery

Call to order at 1:03 PM

1. Approval of agenda

Discussion: No changes were proposed to the agenda emailed before the meeting.

Action: The motion was approved by Dr. Lyde, seconded by Ms. Raney, and unanimously approved.

2. Approval of minutes (April)

Discussion: No changes were proposed to the minutes emailed before the meeting.

Action: The motion was approved by Ms. Raney, seconded by Dr. Ray, and unanimously approved.

3. Minority Opportunity Sub-Committee Report

Discussion: Ms. Raney gave an update on the Athletic Mentor Program. This program is currently in the recruitment phase for both faculty/staff and students. Students will be matched with mentors in October, and various activities will be scheduled throughout the academic year. The program has been successful and well-received by both faculty/staff and athletes. Twenty pairs from last year will continue this year. This year, there are 17 interested athletes thus far, with hopes of 30-40 total at the end of the recruitment. Regarding the minority-opportunity subcommittee, there are no new reports at this time.

Action: Dr. Looser will compile a list of committee members assigned to the minority-opportunity subcommittee and email it to Dr. Lyde. She will then contact those involved and set up a meeting for any necessary tasks this academic year.

4. Gender Equity Sub-Committee Report

Discussion: Ms. Sherry Kennemer typically oversees this subcommittee and could not attend today's meeting. However, she had no new reports delivered to the chair before today's meeting.

Action: Dr. Looser will compile a list of committee members assigned to the minority-opportunity subcommittee and email it to Ms. Kennemer. She will then contact those involved and set up a meeting for any necessary tasks this academic year.

5. Compliance Report

Discussion: Ms. Anna Milwee was traveling today and could not attend. However, she had no new reports to deliver before today's meeting.

Action: None at this time.

6. Athletic Director Report

Discussion: Dr. Looney gave a detailed report on the following items:

- i. Bank Independent Stadium: Dr. Looney provided an update on the Bank Independent Stadium project, presenting a PowerPoint slide deck that showcased recent construction progress through photos. He also discussed potential expansion options and addressed how the development may impact other facilities, including the track and locker rooms.
- ii. House Settlement: Dr. Looney updated the committee on the *House v. NCAA* settlement and the evolving NIL (Name, Image, and Likeness) landscape, highlighting their potential impacts on UNA athletics. He presented an overview of how revenue-sharing from NIL deals could affect future scholarship distribution and sports rosters, noting that these issues will require significant discussion. Dr. Looney and Dr. Ray plan to attend a meeting next week to provide further updates on these developments and their implications for UNA.
- iii. Sports Portfolio: A working group evaluated the current sports portfolio, focusing on potential expansion. Currently, UNA sponsors men's and women's cross country but lacks a track program. Adding men's and women's tracks would increase the number of sponsored sports, impacting both athlete numbers and revenue distributions. The decision to add these programs will also depend on funding availability, which may influence the outcomes of the *House v. NCAA* settlements.

Action: No action is required at this time. Dr. Looney will bring more information to the committee within the upcoming academic year for further discussion and consideration of these items.

7. Faculty Athletics Representative Report

Discussion: Dr. Ray referred the committee to the Academic and Community Engagement portions of the 23-24 UNA Athletics Annual Report distributed in the meeting by Dr. Looney. [Some highlights worth noting: 3.22 GPA for 23-24 (3.27 in Spring 24 including 66=4.0, 230=3.0, 49 graduates, Women's Golf 1st ever team GPA=4.0). Sage Betts, Women's Cross Country, Nursing, was awarded the Keller Key. Athletics was ranked #19 by the app Helper Helper among all Division I institutions in community engagement/service, including Men's Tennis #1 & Women's Tennis #4]. Home contests for Cross Country (September 7) and Soccer (September 19) were well-attended by other student-athletes & coaches, contributing to a supportive family

