University Athletics Committee

2021-22 Faculty Senate Report

Emily D. Wicktor, English/AHSS Representative, Chair of UAC 2021-22

Short committee report on 2021-22 UAC meetings:

As this committee serves in an advisory board capacity for NDSU University Athletics, the committee mostly serves as a sounding/listening board during two meetings (fall and spring) in the school year. Meetings are scheduled and led by the Athletic Director and the Senior Women’s Administrator, and, typically, the Athletics Department administrative assistant schedules the meeting dates/times and posts/shares the agenda and additional documents circulated for the full committee. For 2021-22, there were no voting issues brought forward for the committee to consider nor any votes/changes to record. Prior to each meeting, as chair I requested distribution of the attached bylaws for all committee members and both fall and spring meetings included discussion of the committee members’ responsibilities and duties due to changes in committee members. The committee also went through each item on the committee responsibilities list below, addressing any/all issues as relevant or necessary. I also checked in during both meetings to make sure proper committee member representation had been assigned, and also discussed the variation in term limits, as this is left blank in the Faculty Senate bylaws.

Fall and Spring UAC Meetings included discussion of

—NDSU Athletic Budgets/Fundraising
—Building and Facility Initiatives and Progress on New Facilities
—Continued COVID Protocols and Student Athlete Mental Health/Support Services
—Student Athlete Academic Performance
—Successes in Athletic Teams and Competitions
—Reports from the NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative
—Updated Changes in NCAA Compliance/Regulations (NCAA changes in Name, Image, Likeness and the Transfer Portal, as well as Gender Equity improvements per the NCAA report on disparity in Women’s Basketball)
—Shared Announcements and Comments/Feedback from all Committee Members on University Athletic Related Issues like student/sport performance and events like food drives, blood drives, etc.
—Additional Announcements/Notices, as relevant or necessary, including committee membership changes like new Vice Chair/Chair roles, FAR roles, and rotating representatives from each college
—Finally, the Spring Meeting included plans for how/when the Fall 2022 UAC meeting would be scheduled, etc.
Section 4. University Athletics

1. Committee purpose:
   a. The University Athletics Committee serves as the NDSU Athletics Advisory Board, as described in the constitution of the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA).

2. Voting membership (sixteen members):
   • One faculty member from each representation unit.
   • Two students.
   • Student Body Vice President.
   • President of the Student-Athletes Advisory Council.
   • Two representatives of the Staff Senate.
   • Director of Intercollegiate Athletics.
   • Senior Women's Administrator.
   • Faculty Athletics Representative.

3. Non-voting membership:
   a. There are no non-voting members for this committee.

4. Terms and limits:

5. Committee responsibilities:
   • Promote compliance with principles of conduct as defined by the NCAA.
   • Act as the Board of Appeals for athletic grievances.
   • Initiate and review policies concerning University athletics and make recommendations for consideration of said policy to the Senate. Such areas of concern include guidelines for athletic schedules, guidelines for participation in postseason activities, awards for excellence in athletics, and eligibility of athletes.
   • Review upcoming issues at intercollegiate conference meetings and recommend institutional positions.
   • Review the budget of the athletic programs prior to its approval by the University President.
   • Stimulate interest in athletic events throughout the University community.