

Athletics Council Annual Report, 2018-19

The UTSA Athletics Council is comprised of stakeholders in athletics from across campus, including faculty, representatives from key academic and administrative units, and senior leaders of the Department of Athletics. The Council's role is to provide advice to the President of the university on the policies and procedures for the operation of Intercollegiate Athletics at UTSA. The Athletics Council reviews policies and procedures to ensure compliance with NCAA rules, provides recommendations to the president on the operation of athletics on campus, and reviews relevant NCAA rules and legislation.

Athletics Council held eight meetings over the course of the 2018-19 Academic Year. Below is a summary of the topics discussed and activities undertaken at these meetings.

Academics

The Council reviewed APR data as well as APR policies and regulations. The APR data allowed for comparison across sports and, within individual sports, across semesters and years.

Academic grade reports were provided each semester for review and discussion.

The Associate Athletic Director for Academics, working with Academic Integrity Subcommittee, worked to gain read-only access to student-athlete BlackBoard accounts for Athletics academic advisors in order to better monitor their academic progress and proactively address any potential problems. The implementation of this process has encountered a few technical difficulties that still need resolution.

The Academic Integrity Subcommittee conducted an audit of faculty-initiated grade changes involving student athletes over a twelve month period in 2017-18. The audit found that grade changes were appropriately justified by instructors and that the number of grade changes involving student-athletes was a small part of the total grade changes processed for the entire student body during the review period.

Compliance

The Associate Athletic Director for Compliance presented to Council on significant new legislation adopted by the NCAA.

The Faculty Athletics Representative and Associate Athletic Director for Compliance presented on current trends in D1 Enforcement by the NCAA, which highlighted the growing number of cases citing head coach responsibility as a basis for the violation and the increasing number of cases involving assistant coaches, particularly in Men's Basketball.

The Council completed an update and revision to its bylaws, effective Fall 2018.

Student-Athlete Welfare

The Council discussed opportunities to highlight student-athlete contributions to the broader campus community and to integrate athletics more completely into university life.

Reports

The Athletic Director or her representative briefed Council each month on the latest developments in the operation of the Department. Issues discussed included: development of the Roadrunner Game Plan; overview and updates on planning for the Roadrunner Athletics Center for Excellence (RACE) and development of a Master Facility Plan; educational programming around issues of mental health and sexual assault prevention; and reports on NCAA and Conference USA meetings attended.

The Faculty Athletics Representative and chair of the Athletics Council provided reports on conference and national meetings he attended, including the CUSA spring and fall meetings, the D1A FAR meeting, and NCAA meetings, such as the Regional Rules Seminar.

The Associate Athletic Director for Academics provided detailed academic grade and APR reports each semester. These reports highlighted team GPAs, trends in team and Department academic performance, and DFW data for all sports.

The Executive Senior Associate Athletics Director for Finance and Strategic Initiatives presented on the Roadrunner Game Plan and provided an overview of the strategic initiatives planned as part of its development.

The Assistant Vice President for Athletics Resource Development, the Senior Athletic Director for Development, and the Assistant Athletics Director for Major Gifts presented on the Capital Campaign, RACE development, and the Roadrunner Athletic Fund.

The Associate Athletic Director for Compliance provided quarterly reports on secondary violations. His reports demonstrated that UTSA has established a culture of compliance in which staff and coaches regularly prioritize rule-adherence and self-report any violations.

The Faculty Athletics Representative reported on the work of the Campus Perception of Athletics Task Force, which held faculty focus groups and is in the process of conducting a student survey as part of its work to better integrate athletics and the rest of the campus community.

Coaches Visits

The Council met with coaches of several of our teams to learn more about their programs—the challenges they face, the issues that are of concern to them, and the recruiting process for their sport. These meetings are educational for the Council and allow for the committee to address any concerns the coaches raise.

In 2018-19 the Council met with the following coaches:

Summer Batiste – Women's Golf

Jason Marshall – Baseball

Aaron Fox – Track and Field

Frank Wilson – Football

Derek Pittman – Soccer

Submitted by: Gregg L. Michel, Chair
Athletics Council