

Report of the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics to the University Council

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This is a summary report covering the committee activities during the fall of 2017 and the spring of 2018.

The Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics reviews the Academic Support Group of the Athletic Association and reports to the Council. On October 20, 2017 the committee met with the Ramone Cooper, Director of Academics, and Jim Booz, then Executive Associate Athletic Director for Compliance. Over the course of the meeting the following items were discussed: The University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill Academic Fraud Case and the robust measures taken by the Athletic Association to protect against any and all such occurrences at UGA; the institution of “days off,” including the prohibition of all countable athletically related activities one week prior to exam periods. On March 30, 2018 the committee met with panels of coaches (six), student athletes (approximately 40), and academic staff (approximately 50) to discuss academic issues each group faces.

Coaches' comments of note:

- The English Department's rule of three absences mandates a drop from the course is singularly challenging for athletes.
- The EAC's proposed block schedule system is likely to be helpful to student athletes.
- Online coursework is increasing popular, particularly in the summer. The number of online courses for which athletes may enroll in any given semester is limited, and their progress in those courses is monitored carefully.
- The Double Dawgs programs are generally not an option for our student athletes since advanced and MA courses tend to cluster in the afternoon hours during which athletes train.
- Athletes new to UGA are strongly encouraged to enroll in at least one course in the summer, rather than begin coursework in the fall. The summer provides them with much needed time to acclimate to university life.

Student Athletes' comments of note:

- Student athletes expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of a university testing policy. They believe they are unduly penalized when 'forced' to use drop tests and quizzes to accommodate their travel schedules.

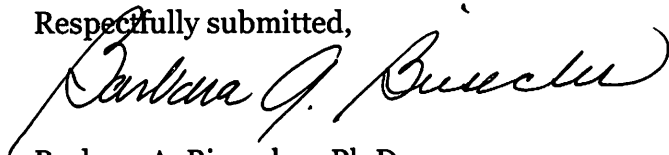
- Student athletes are concerned that they are singularly disadvantaged with respect to accessing experiential learning opportunities, given practice and travel schedules.
- They requested that English 1101 be available as an online course.

Academic Support Staff comments of note:

- The EAC's proposed block schedule system is likely to be helpful to student athletes.
- Careful monitoring of online coursework is a priority and, given the degree to which many of our student athletes are sequestered (including meals), the significance of student athletes' face-to-face interaction with their peers and faculty in classes was underscored.

Two items of concern expressed by student athletes in writing (university excused absence and testing policy, experiential learning opportunities) have been forwarded by the chair to the appropriate committees and administrators for consideration. The committee was generally impressed with the level of academic support provided to UGA student athletes. I close by extending the committee's congratulations to our student athletes for their academic success. The overall GPA for fall 2017 was a record 3.11 – a big jump over last fall's record of 3.06 and almost as strong as last spring's highest ever overall GPA of 3.13. All of the Women's teams were above 3.01 with Cross Country on top at 3.49 while finishing 17th in the nation at the NCAA Championship last fall. For the men, all but two of the teams were above 3.01. Go Dawgs!

Respectfully submitted,



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Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics