Report of the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics to the University Council

Nov 18, 2020

Presented by Committee Chair Luke Naeher

The Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) is required to report to Council on the academic progress of UGA's student-athletes at least once each semester. I am delivering this report today for the spring 2020 semester – drawing largely from the report that Professor David Shipley shared with the UGA Athletic Board at their September 11, 2020 meeting.

I am pleased to report that the final overall GPA for the 2019-20 Academic Year for all student-athletes, men and women combined, was a record-setting 3.16.

All eleven of the women's teams finished with a team GPA of 3.20 or higher. The cumulative GPA for Georgia's 264 female student-athletes was an incredible 3.42. Five of Georgia's eight men's teams finished with a team GPA of 3.23 or higher.

9.2% of UGA's student-athletes had perfect 4.00 GPAs; 40.4% were between 3.50 and 3.99; and, a record-setting 75.9% were at 3.00 or above.

The first meeting of the COIA for the current academic year was from noon-1pm on Mon November 16. The committee met with Stephanie Ransom [Deputy Athletic Director – Finance] and colleagues from the UGA Athletic Department to get an update on:
- Admissions and Transfer Criteria
    - *Glada Horvat [Senior Associate Athletic Director – Academics & Eligibility]*
    - *Rhonda Kilpatrick [Assistant Athletic Director – Academics and Eligibility]*
- Student Athlete Academic Progress and Update
    - *Magdi El Shahawy [Deputy Athletic Director – Academics and Student Development].*

Among the items we discussed was the impact of COVID on our student-athletes, including:
- The impact on graduate transfers next year from the added year of eligibility from COVID,
- The retention of some of our current student athletes staying on for an additional year of eligibility from the added year of eligibility from COVID (eg, approximately 30 spring sports student-athletes are staying on for another year of eligibility)
- The changes in the Rankin-Smith Academic Center at UGA (ie, it is now an appointment only facility)

In closing my report, I would like to give a few shout-outs.

- 70 student-athletes graduated on May 8

- There are seemingly countless exciting and impressive individual honors for our student-athletes worthy of note, including Rodrigo Blankenship (football) and Elena Christofi (tennis) selected for NCAA Postgraduate scholarships, Jake Fromm named to the AFCA Good Works Team, and ten student athletes across a range of sports recognized as CoSIDA/Capitol One Academic All-America
- In addition, many of UGA's teams were recognized by national coaches' associations for their high team GPAs including the Gym Dogs, Equestrian, men's and women's Golf, Soccer, men's and women's Swimming and Diving, men's and women's Cross Country and Track & Field, and men's Tennis.
- As released just yesterday, The University of Georgia student-athletes set an all-time record with an 87% graduation rate according to the annual NCAA Graduation Success Rate (GSR) released Tuesday of this week by the NCAA. Five Georgia teams scored a perfect 100 on the GSR report: women's golf, gymnastics, women's swimming and diving, women's tennis, and volleyball. Scores went up in seven sports, remained the same in six sports, and three sports recorded slight reductions.

Last, but not least, I want to recognize the incredible work that has been done by the entire UGA Athletics academic support staff under Magdi El Shahawy, and former Deputy Athletic Director Ted White. As our Athletic Director Greg McGarity shared yesterday, *"the counselors, tutors, and student services staff spend countless hours every day, week, and month providing support and direction for our student athletes. It's truly a team effort."*

Our student-athletes are an amazing group of young men and women – in their respective athletic arenas, and in the classroom. As their faculty, administrators, support staff and colleagues, we have much to celebrate and be proud of.

That concludes my report.