

Report of the COIA; April 21, 2021; Presented by Committee Chair Luke Naeher

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Thank you Mr. President

- 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 2021 semester.

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- **First, I will share some of the incredible accomplishments of our student-athletes this past year.**

- As highlighted by Professor David Shipley at our Feb 2021 UGA Athletic Board meeting, it has been a very good fall for UGA's student-athletes.
 - They achieved their highest overall fall semester GPA on record – a 3.14 for all teams, all 554 men and women, combined. This is also the second highest overall semester GPA ever.
 - All but three men's teams and all but one of the women's teams had GPAs above 3.00. 67.3% of UGA's student-athletes had a 3.00 or better – that is the best ever for the fall, and the second best ever overall.
 - 29.1% had a 3.5 or better – again, the best ever for the fall, and the second best ever.
 - A record 9.2% of Georgia's student-athletes had perfect 4.00 GPAs.
 - The men, with five of eight teams above a 3.00, had Cross Country in front with a 3.376 team GPA. They edged out the men's golf team with a 3.37.
 - All but one of UGA's 11 women's teams were above 3.00 with Golf on top with a 3.57 followed closely by Track & Field (3.56), Equestrian (3.52), and Women's Cross Country (3.51).
 - Soccer, Softball, and Women's Track & Field had their best semester averages ever, and eight teams had their highest fall semesters ever including Baseball, Men's Golf, Men's Swimming & Diving, Men's Track & Field, Women's Golf, Equestrian, Women's Swimming & Diving, and Volleyball.

Second, I will report on the specific work of our committee this semester.

The first meeting of the COIA for the current academic year was from 1-2pm on Tue March 23. The committee met with Josh Brooks [*named the J. Reid Parker Director of Athletics on Jan 6, 2021*], Stephanie Ransom [*Deputy Athletic Director – Finance*] and colleagues from the UGA Athletic Department to get an update on:

- Student Athlete Academic Progress
 - **Magdi El Shahawy** [*Deputy Athletic Director – Academics and Student Development*].

Sports Medicine

- **Ron Courson** [*Executive Associate Athletic Director - Sports Medicine*].

Among the **items we discussed** was the impact of COVID on our student-athletes, including:

- The challenges and successes of the Academic Support Group with our student-athletes amidst the COVID-required adjustments this past year,
- Preparations for transitioning back to normal in all operations of academic support for our student-athletes this fall.

Our next and **final meeting** of the spring semester is scheduled for 12:30-2pm on Tue April 27.

- We will meet with coaches, student-athletes, and academic counselors and other staff from the Rankin-Smith Sr. Academic Center to review the excellent work of the Academic Support Group of the Athletic Association.

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

- As reported by Georgia Athletics yesterday (Apr 20): Ron Courson shared that over 115 student-athletes and staff were vaccinated at the Butts-Mehre Heritage Hall by a vaccination administration team from Piedmont Healthcare.
- As we approach the end of the semester, I am pleased to share that there are 100 student-athletes scheduled to graduate this May.
- I again want to recognize the incredible work that has been done by the entire UGA Athletics Sports Medicine and Academic Support staff under Ron Courson and Magdi El Shahawy in these extra challenging times through the pandemic.
- Last, I want to wish Josh Brooks and his team at Georgia Athletics health and success as they, and as we all, finish out the spring semester, and continue with our preparations for the fall semester.

Thank you President Morehead.

That concludes my report.

Extra Notes that I will not be presenting ...

- As reported by Georgia Athletics earlier this month (Apr 7):
 - ***Track and field athlete Samantha Drop and golfer Davis Thompson were recognized as recipients of the 2021 Joel Eaves Award during a virtual banquet earlier this month. This award is presented to the rising seniors with the highest grade point averages.***

 - ***Other top award recipients include soccer player Caroline Chipman of Atlanta who was presented with the Marilyn Vincent Scholar-Athlete Award as the graduating female senior with the highest GPA; and track and field athlete Taylor Scarbrough of Canton, GA, who earned the Dick Bestwick Scholar-Athlete Award as the male senior with the highest GPA.***

 - ***The 2021 Georgia recipients for the H. Boyd McWhorter Post-Graduate Scholarship were Davis Thompson (golf) and Caroline Chipman (soccer). Jessica Drop of Durham, Conn., (track and field) and Riley King of Lawrenceville, Ga., (baseball) were presented with the Brad Davis SEC Community Service Post-Graduate Scholarships.***

 - ***The equestrian and men's tennis teams were recognized as the winners of the Faculty Athletics Representative's Award. The women's team earned a 3.57 GPA for the 2019-20 academic year, while the men's team finished with a GPA of 3.43.***