

Thank you, President Morehead.

Good afternoon, fellow members of the University Council. The Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics met on April 21, 2025 led by Chair J. Derrick Lemons.

Key concerns from student-athletes included instructor flexibility and communication regarding team travel-related absences. Student-athletes reported inconsistent handling of absences and noted that in some classes the absence of detailed schedules including test and assignment due dates in syllabi makes academic planning difficult. Online proctored testing is available for student athletes and is a solution for students who must be away on test days. Also, flexibility with test times is helpful because an exam may be scheduled during athletic competition. Students emphasized the value of regular grade postings, ensuring TAs are qualified and grading consistently, improving access to tutoring for smaller, upper-level classes, and promoting equitable tutoring resources across all sports. Mental health resources were acknowledged as strong and should continue to be promoted. The committee members discussed the importance of continuing training on how to effectively communicate with instructors about sport-specific absences and course expectations.

Josh Brooks, J. Reid Parker Director of Athletics provided an update on the changing landscape of college athletics. NIL continues to prompt significant changes. A settlement decision, due any day now, may reduce the total number of student-athletes but increase those on scholarship—potentially by 100. Budget adjustments are underway in response to the impact of the new \$18.5 million revenue-sharing with student athletes. Compensation from collectives must remain within fair market value and will be audited by Deloitte, with enforcement by a P-4 Board.

Academic counselors discussed in-person attendance policies and the opportunities that a new class schedule will present. Head coaches shared concerns about AI policies, travel-related attendance issues, and suggested inviting faculty to games and practices to improve communication and understanding.

Finally, we celebrated the achievements of two women's athletic teams: the Equestrian Team, which recently won a National Championship, and the Women's Tennis Team, which secured the SEC Championship.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Derrick Lemons

Chair, Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics