

Memorandum

To: University Council

From: Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics  
Professor David Shipley, FAR

Date: September 24, 2014

Re: Academic Progress of Student Athletes

The bylaws for the University Council state that the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics will report to Council on the academic progress of student-athletes at least once a semester. This committee is chaired this year by Dr. Luke Naeher in Public Health, and I serve on the committee by reason of my position as the University's Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA. I want to share with Council a portion of the academic reported I presented to the University of Georgia Athletic Association Board of Directors last Friday, September 19, 2014.

The College Swimming Coaches Association of America presented Scholar All American Awards to 16 male and female UGA swimmers for achieving a GPA of 3.5 or higher and qualifying for the NCAA Championship. 4 swimmers received Honorable Mention for achieving a 3.5 or better and making B cut times.

The men's golf team, gymnastics, and the women's swimming & diving team each received the NCAA Public Recognition Award for being in the top 10% of all teams in their respective sports for their team's APR.

85 UGA student-athletes were on the SEC's Spring Academic Honor Roll. This was the highest total out of the 14 schools in the conference, with South Carolina coming in second with 70. For the entire year, Georgia came in second on the SEC Honor Roll.

Georgia's men's track & field team earned the National Scholar Team of the Year honors for the 2014 outdoor season after finishing 6th at the NCAA Championships coupled with an outstanding team GPA.

The women's track and field team also earned U.S. Track & Field & Cross Country Coaches Association Honors as an All-Academic Team.

Seven men from track & field earned All-Academic individual honors, as did 5 women from track & field.

(Georgia Track Coach Emeritus Lewis Gainey said that 2013-14 was the greatest year ever for Georgia track & field in competition and in the classroom!)

Six UGA student-athletes will be receiving D1 FAR academic excellence awards - the criteria are earning a degree in 2013-14, finishing with a GPA of 3.80 or higher, and having at least 2 years of athletic competition at a FBS school. The majors for these student athletes, 3 men and 3 women, were International Affairs, Public Relations, Economics, Mathematics, Finance/International Business, and Biology/Psychology.

ESPN Grade placed Georgia's football team 8th nationally based on the team's standing in the AP and USA Today Gop 25 polls coupled with the team's graduation rate which was 3rd overall of all the schools in the top 25, coming in just behind Stanford and UCLA.

The FAR Awards, presented to the teams with top GPAs for 2013-14, went to men's tennis (3.25) and equestrian (3.404). Equestrian finished ahead of women's swimming by .001; this close finish is reminiscent of the equestrian team's close finishes against South Carolina at the SEC and National Championships.

The Joel Eaves Scholar Athlete Awards, presented to the male and female student-athletes with the highest GPA in the athletic program entering the fall semester of their senior year based on hours and on all courses taken at the University (and earning at least two varsity letters) are Nicolas Fink, a swimmer, and Morgan Justiss, a member of our equestrian team.

The final overall 2013-14 GPA for Georgia's teams - all male and female student athletes combined - was 3.03. Last year it was 2.99. It is my understanding that this is the best overall GPA ever for our student-athletes for an entire academic year. The overall GPA for the spring was 3.04. Well over half of our student-athletes were above 3.00, and almost 25% were between 3.50 and 3.99. Almost 6% were at 4.00.

42 student-athletes earned degrees in December, and 88 earned degrees in May.