

Report of the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics to the University Council

April 26, 2017

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. Professor Shipley delivered this report on behalf of the committee in November, and I am delivering this report today for the spring semester – drawing from the report that Professor Shipley shared with the UGA Athletic Board at their February 14, 2017 meeting.

I am pleased to report that the overall fall semester GPA of 3.06 for UGA's 530 student-athletes was the best ever for a fall term.

All 11 of the women's teams were above 3.00 and all but 2 of the men's teams were above that line. In addition, 75 student-athletes were named to the Fall SEC Academic Honor Roll.

In addition, the COIA met 3 times in 2016-17.

On November 28, 2016 – the committee met with Jim Booz, Executive Associate Athletic Director, who provided a preview of the NCAA Convention agenda. Particularly, we discussed some of the proposed legislation surrounding the time demands of student-athletes. These proposals are designed to provide student-athletes some input on the development of their practice and workout schedules, some additional time off during the academic year and whether or not a day of travel should or should not count as a day off from required athletic activity.

On February 22, 2017 – the committee again met with Mr. Booz, who provided an updated report on the NCAA proposals that were voted on at the NCAA Convention and will become effective on August 1, 2017. The main topic was the time demands legislation for student-athletes and how the new rules are meant to provide some additional days off during the academic year for the student-athletes and how those days off can be a “true” day off from any required athletically related activity. Additionally, some proposals were discussed that were scheduled to be (and were) voted on in April 2017. The main points were the topics of early recruitment of prospective student-athletes and some specific football proposals that added an additional full time coach and an early signing period.

Our final meeting on March 29, 2017 was our annual review of the academic support group of the Athletic Association as well as interviews with a group of coaches and separate interviews with a large group of student-athletes. Several important topics and themes came up in these discussions, including some on point and helpful insights to the academic-specific needs and challenges of student athletes at UGA – through the lenses of the coaches, academic staff, and the student-athletes themselves.

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

First, to Athletic Association Executive Associate Athletic Director, Ted White, who serves as the Director of the Rankin M. Smith, Sr., Student-Athlete Academic Center. I have had the pleasure of working with Ted at one level or another for nearly 10 years – Ted leads the Center with excellence. The academic support provided for our student-athletes here at UGA is as strong as it gets – Ted and his team are amazing.

Second, the UGA Athletic Association held their annual Student-Athlete Awards Banquet on Monday. As reported by Bob Miller in yesterday's online Bulldawg Illustrated, below are some of the most notable awards for our excellent student-athletes.

Earning the Men's Student-Athlete of the Year was the senior guard for the men's basketball team, J.J. Frazier.

Claiming the Female Student-Athlete of the Year award was the women's track and field junior, Keturah Orji. It was the second consecutive year in which Orji has received that honor.

Former Georgia gymnast Courtney Kupets Carter hosted the event. Kupets Carter helped lead the Gymdogs to four NCAA team Championships from 2006-2009, while tallying nine individual NCAA titles throughout her career.

Women's track and field Senior Morgan Green and men's track and field graduate Jimmy Hicks were named Georgia's nominees for the SEC Brad Davis Community Service Postgraduate Scholarships.

Junior tight end of the football team, Jeb Blazevich, and women's basketball junior Haley Clark were named recipients of the UGA Athletic Association Sportsmanship-Ethics Award.

Men's basketball player Brandon Young and swimmer Chantal Van Landeghem were recognized for receiving the Boyd McWhorter SEC Postgraduate Scholarship. Van Landeghem also received the Marilyn Vincent Scholar-Athlete award.

The men's tennis and women's equestrian teams were recognized as the recipients of the Faculty Athletics Representative's award, after earning the highest team grade point averages of 3.33 and 3.34, respectively, during the 2015-16 academic year.

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.