

Standing Committee Annual Report

Name of Committee or Council:

Athletic Committee

Chair:

Cindy Taylor, Faculty Athletics Rep

Meeting Dates in Current Year:

20 November 2020 & 19 April 2021

Major Actions or Accomplishments:

The Athletics Committee met via Zoom on 20 November 2020 for the Fall meeting and again via Zoom on 19 April 2021 for the Spring meeting. I am attaching the Agenda and the minutes from those meetings to this report.

1. We reviewed academic progress and graduation rates of APSU student-athletes versus other OVC universities.
2. Updates included the following:
 - a. Coach **Scotty Waldren** was hired as the Head Football in October. Coach Waldren came to APSU from the University of Southern Mississippi where he was the Interim Head Coach.
 - b. Donors helping to upgrade facilities - Downey Baseball ----- Jenkins Field House-----
 - c. APSU student-athletes continue to excel in the classroom, with 34 student-athletes being named to the OVC's Academic Medal of Honor (highest GPA in OVC) and 168 student-athletes were named to the OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll (3.25+). Student-athlete graduations were also very successful, 21 Fall 2020 graduates and 75 in May 2021 with 8 student-athletes earning Master's degrees. SAAC (Student Athlete Advisory Committee) continues to advocate for student-athlete mental wellness and giving back to the community by raising \$8500 for Turner's Heroes; volunteering at Loaves and Fishes; virtual bingo with assisted living residents and virtual book readings with elementary school students.
 - d. Compliance reported that the department had seven violations (Level 3 secondary violations – "A Level III/Secondary violation is **isolated or limited in nature**, can be inadvertent in nature, and only provides a minimal recruiting, competitive or other advantage", four waivers, two medical hardship waivers and seven interpretive requests.
 - e. Our OVC Scholar Athlete Nominees were **Jack McDonald** (Football) and **Fabienne Schmidt** (Women's Tennis). Fabienne was one of three female OVC Scholar Athlete Awardees for the 2019-2020 academic year. Since 1981-1982, APSU has had 12 male student-athletes and 10 female-student athletes awarded the OVC Scholar Athlete Award.
 - f. Coach **Brittany Young** (Women's Basketball) and Coach **Nate James** (Men's Basketball) were hired in March and April.
 - g. Several Athletics staff were promoted to Assistant Director Athletics (**Joni Johnston, Cody Bush, and Chris Campbell**), **Katie Ethridge** was promoted to Associate Director of Athletics, **Sara Robson** and **Jordan Harmon** were promoted to Senior Associate Director of Athletics, and **Lisa Varytimidis** was promoted to Deputy Director of Athletics.



Agenda

Date 11.20.20

Austin Peay State University Athletic Committee Meeting

1. Introductions
2. Comments from **Gerald Harrison**, Director of Athletics
3. Academic Report 2019-2020 from **Katie Ethridge**, Director of Academic Services
4. Compliance Review 2019-2020 by **Cindy Taylor** for **Tara Pfeifler**, Assistant Director of Athletics/Compliance
 - i. APR report for 19-20 cohort
 - ii. Covid-19 Updates
5. Year End FAR report for 2019-20 from **Cindy Taylor**, Chair and Faculty Athletics Representative



Athletic Committee
Fall 2020 Meeting Minutes
20 November 2020

- **Gerald Harris, Director of Athletics**

- Gerald thanked faculty and staff on the committee for their efforts during the pandemic to provide the best experience for our students.
- Football played three games in the fall (they were allowed a maximum of four games). The 1st game of the entire College Football season against Central Arkansas (a perennial FCS powerhouse) was televised on ESPN on 29 August 2019. It was estimated that \$72 million dollars' worth of advertising exposure was produced with that telecast. The remaining two games were guarantee games (i.e., APSU was paid to play the game by the opponent) against FBS teams, the universities of Cincinnati and Pittsburgh.
- Football will play seven OVC games in the spring with three home contests and four away contests. Fortera stadium will be at reduced capacity for these home contests that begin at home on 28 February 2021.
- **Coach Scotty Walden** was hired as the new Head Football Coach in October and is currently putting together his staff. Prior to being hired at APSU, he was the Interim Head Coach at the University of Southern Mississippi.
- **Coach Valerie Brown**, was just hired as the new Track and Cross Country Head Coach last season but was able to guide her Women's Indoor Track team to an OVC Conference Championship. It was the first time that APSU had won the OVC Women's Indoor Track Championship since 2001. **Kenisha Phillips** was named the OVC Freshman of the Year and was also named Female Track Athlete of the Championship.
- **Volleyball, Soccer and Cross Country** sports were postponed and they will be playing an OVC Conference Schedule in Spring 2021.
- **Terry Taylor**, of the Men's Basketball team was named for the second year in a row the OVC's Pre-season Player of the Year. Both MBB and WBB will be playing approximately 20 to 25 games and will have to have played 13 to compete for OVC and NCAA championships. The Dunn Center will also have reduced capacity during these contests and no fans will be allowed to sit at the floor level.
- **Spring sports** (Baseball, Softball, Golf, Beach Volleyball, Tennis and Track and Field) will have a full season in 2021, however due to budget constraints there will be fewer games and most will be OVC conference games.

- **Event Center/Area Project – Ground Breaking 13 November 2020** – APSU signed a 30 year agreement with the **Montgomery County Multi-Purpose Event Center (MPEC)** in October. The Multi-Purpose Event Center will hold roughly 6,000 fans for concerts, 5,500 for basketball games, and 5,000 for hockey games. The Nashville Predators (National Hockey League) signed a contract to manage the facility and will also be responsible for booking the facility and finding all the appropriate sponsors and partners, leaving the organization responsible for its overall day-to-day operations. Additionally, the Predators will be charged with booking the facility, finding all the appropriate sponsors and partners to bring the venue to life and make it flourish. This facility will be available in 2022-2023, and the Men and Women’s Basketball teams will transition to that facility from the Dunn Center. That move will open up their current locker rooms/offices to other athletic teams.
- **Downey Baseball Operations Center and Clubhouse** – the Grand Opening for this facility was held on 6 November 2020. Lead donors on the project were Doug and Linda Downey. The clubhouse now has an updated locker room, team room, staff offices and a meeting room.
- **Jenkins Family Fieldhouse** – the Jenkins family was the primary donor in renovating the former indoor tennis facility into a multi-purpose indoor facility featuring a synthetic turf. The fieldhouse will be used by many different athletic teams for training.
- **Winter Sports** – many of the winter sports will be held to a reduced capacity (1200 max people in the Dunn Center) and all fans will be seated on the 2nd and 3rd floors.
- **Budget** – As a result of the pandemic, APSU Athletics has lost revenue and a program, “**Be the Bridge**” was developed for donors to assist with expenses associated with Covid-19 testing.
- **Staffing – Tim Knavel**, was hired as the Assistant Director of Athletics (Chief Financial Officer) and started 1 May 2020. Tim was most recently Ohio University’s Associate Athletic Director for Business Operations/Chief Finance and Administrative Officer from 2012 to 2020.
- **APSU was ranked 3rd** overall out of the 352 Division I schools with a grade of 77.8% and was one of 18 universities to receive an “A” grade on the 2019-2020 Women in College Coaching Report Card.
- **Covid-19 Testing** – estimated at \$500,000 and athletes in season will be tested 3x/week and those athletes out of season will be tested 1x/week. Joni Johnson, Head Athletic Trainer has been outstanding in her work associated with keeping the student-athletes safe and healthy. Boyd Health Services and APSU Medical Staff have helped tremendously.
- **Athletic Jersey Retirements** – a committee will be formed (Athletic Committee may be involved) to develop criteria for retiring athletic jerseys of deserving former APSU Student-Athletes.
- **Katie Ethridge, Assistant Athletics Director/Academic Services**
 - **Katie** (also advises MBB, MXC, WXC, MGO, WGO, MTN, WTN, WR&F, and SB) spent time describing the functions of Athletics Academic Services. Her staff includes: **Ryan Combs** (Director of Student-Athlete Development and advisor for BSB, BV, WBB, SOC, VB), **Haley Meier** (Director of Football Academics and Community Outreach) and **Riley Plenge** (Academic Coordinator and advises FB, CHR, and DAN)
 - **AMP (Athletics Mentoring Program)** – All freshman student-athletes are mentored by an upper class student-athlete and they meet 1x/month.
 - **Financial Literacy** – partnered with Fortera Credit Union to offer workshops to Sophomores and Seniors.
 - **Community Service** – student-athletes posted 3176 volunteer hours which was twice what they did last year.

- **APSU Student-Athletes** posted a 3.195 gpa for the Fall 2019 semester and a 3.292 for Spring 2020 semester. Thirty-four **(34)** student-athletes received the OVC's Academic Medal of Honor (highest GPA in OVC) and 168 student-athletes were named to the OVC Commissioners Honor Roll (3.25+ GPA). The team academic achievement awards went to Men's Basketball, Cross Country, Golf, Tennis and Football and Women's Beach Volleyball and Tennis.
- **Fabienne Schmidt** was names one of three female OVC Scholar Athletes for 2019-2020.
- **APSU Athletics had 84 student-athletes graduate in 2019-2020 and 21 are scheduled to graduate in December 2020.**
- **Tara Pfeifler, Assistant Director of Athletics/Compliance (presented by Cindy Taylor)**
 - Compliance Report for 2019-2020 and detailed the Department of Athletics violations (total of 7 Level 3 secondary violations), waivers (total of 4), medical hardship waivers (total of 2) and interpretive requests (total of 7).
 - COVID19 Report
 - all spring sports for 2020 (baseball, softball, Outdoor Track, Golf, Tennis, Beach Volleyball) received a "free" year of eligibility – no season of competition was charged and institutions can self-apply a clock extension
 - all fall and winter sports for 2021 (Football, Cross Country, Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball, Indoor Track) will receive a "free" year of eligibility – no season of competition will be charged for this year (even if they compete) and institutions can self-apply a clock extension
 - Recruiting Dead Period – the NCAA has extended a recruiting dead period for all Division I sports until April 15 – no on or off campus contact with any prospective student athletes. Our recruiting for now is phone calls and video calls (where we are the ones giving a tour of campus, we can't arrange for a PSA to come to our campus and talk to them while they are touring)
 - Uniform Transfer Exception – this will be coming up for vote in January and would allow a one time transfer exception for all sports – currently baseball, basketball and football do not have this. All other transfer exceptions remain.
 - Tara also provided the committee the 2019-2020 Academic Progress Rate (APR) Institutional Report (as of 20 November 2020).

The APR is calculated as follows:

- Each student-athlete receiving athletically related financial aid earns one point for staying in school and one point for being academically eligible.
- A team's total points are divided by points possible and then multiplied by 1,000 to equal the team's Academic Progress Rate.
- In addition to a team's current-year APR, the rolling four-year APR is also used to determine accountability.
- Teams must earn a four-year average APR of 930 to compete in championships.
- Women's Cross Country, Women's Golf, Women's Beach Volleyball and Women's Tennis scored a perfect 1000 on their APR. Football (950), Men's Basketball (930) and Men's Cross Country (961) had the lowest APR.

- **Cindy Taylor, Faculty Athletic Representative to the NCAA**
 - Our OVC Scholar Athlete Nominees for this year were **Jack McDonald**, Football and **Fabienne Schmidt**, Tennis. **Fabienne was one of 3 OVC Scholar Athlete Awardees for the 2019-2020 academic year.** Since 1981-1982, APSU has had 12 male student-athletes and 10 female student-athletes awarded the OVC Scholar Athlete Award.
 - **Retired Lt. Col. Greg Lane**, APSU Army ROTC Cadet Success Coordinator and former APSU ROTC instructor was nominated by SAAC (Student Athlete Advisory Committee) for the **Thurston Banks Award for Distinguished Academic Serve.** Greg was one of two recipients for 2021 OVC Thurston Banks Award. This award, selected by the OVC Faculty Athletic Representatives (FARs) was established in 2013 to recognize individuals (e.g., academic advisor, professor, tutor, etc.), with at least five years of service at one or more OVC Member Institutions for their outstanding contributions to OVC student-athletes' academic success, learning and development as well for his or her overall commitment to the institution's athletics program.
 - At APSU, I serve on the following committees in my role as the FAR: (1) Athletic Committee, Chair, (2) Title IX Gender Equity Committee and the (3) Athletic Scholarship Appeal Committee.



Agenda

04.19.21 – 3:00 pm – Virtual via Zoom

<https://apsu.zoom.us/j/84364749064>

Austin Peay State University Athletic Committee Meeting

1. Introductions
2. Comments from **Gerald Harrison, *Director of Athletics***
3. Fall 2020 Academic Report from **Katie Ethridge, *Assistant Athletics Director/Academic Services***
4. Compliance Report from **Tara Patterson, *Assistant Director of Athletics/Compliance***
5. Comments, **Cindy Taylor, *Chair and Faculty Athletics Representative***
6. Other Items?



Athletic Committee
Spring 2021 Meeting Minutes
19 April 2021 – 3:00 pm
Virtual via Zoom

- **Gerald Harris, Director of Athletics**

- Gerald again thanked faculty and staff on the committee for their efforts during the pandemic to provide the best experience for our students.
- **Football** played three games in the fall and went 0-3 (they were allowed a maximum of four games). They started OVC conference play on 21 Feb and finished on 3 Apr and ended up 4-2 in conference play. Homecoming coincided with the 21 Mar contest against UT Martin.
- **Women's Golf** – are currently competing in the OVC Conference Women's Golf Championship in Alabama.
- **Women's Tennis** – the team finished the regular season on Friday with a W against Murray State and will be competing in the OVC Women's Tennis Championship in Evansville, Indiana. *Note 19 May 2021: The team won the OVC Women's Tennis Championship and was selected to play No. 3 Georgia in Athens. Georgia ended APSU Women's Tennis season with a 4-0 win.*
- **Men's Tennis** – the team finished their regular season on 17 April but were also one of four OVC teams to advance to the OVC Men's Tennis Championship in Evansville, Indiana. *Note 19 May 2021: Their season came to an end in the first round with a loss against Tennessee Tech.*
- **Women's Track** – just competed at the Vanderbilt Black and Gold Track meet, the Kentucky Open and the OVC Outdoor Track and Field Championships remain. *Note 19 May 2021: Karlijn Schouten set a meet record and brought home a gold medal in the pole vault, Denia Hill-Tate won a gold in the high jump, and Kenisha Phillips took the gold medal in the 200 and 400 m dashes.*
- **Beach Volleyball** – still competing in conference matches and currently are 1-6. *Note 19 May 2021: won the very first OVC Beach Volleyball Championship in Martin, Tennessee, and ended the season 10-8. Unfortunately, the OVC does not have an automatic qualifier so their season ended with the win over UT Martin in the Championship match.*
- **Men's Golf** – are finishing up the regular season and preparing for the Championship.
- **Baseball** – working to make the modified Championship tournament (only 4 teams) to be held in Jackson, Tennessee at the end of May.
- **Softball** – working to make the modified Championship tournament (only 4 teams) to be held in Oxford, Alabama in the 2nd weekend of May.

Covid Related issues

- *There have been persistent changes to competition schedules. Gerald thanked the Covid Task Force, Boyd Student Health Center, Dr. Rutter, Joni Johnston and the whole athletics training staff and Event Staff and Student-Athletes for keeping everything moving with a positive attitude.*
- *Only one football contest was canceled and Eastern Illinois made that decision.*
- *Loss of revenue as a result of the covid pandemic is \$1.8 million (NCAA disbursements, ticket sales) and some of that was able to be recovered via CARES emergency funding.*

New Hires

- **Brittany Young** – *is the New Women's Basketball Coach and she was hired 17 March 2021. She had formerly been an assistant at Mississippi State and Old Dominion.*
- **Nate James** – *is the New Men's Basketball Coach and he was hired 2 April 2021. He had formerly been an assistant at Duke University.*

Facilities

- **Softball Locker Room**
- **Baseball K Club**
- **MPEC** – *APSU is a partner and not a tenant of the MPEC facility. Looking next for organizations with rights to naming.*
- **Jenkins Fieldhouse** – *new landscaping*
- **Baseball Field** – *NEEDS: net on scoreboard, railing, sound system*
- **Softball Field** – *NEEDS: add scoreboard*
- **Fortera** – *NEEDS: turf, scoreboard; field drainage issues*

Promotions

- **Joni Johnston** – Assistant Director of Athletics, Sports Medicine
- **Cody Bush** – Assistant Director of Athletics, Strategic Communications and Branding
- **Chris Campbell** – Assistant Director of Athletics, Sports Performance – Prohab – prevent injuries
- **Katie Ethridge** – Associate Director of Athletics, Student Athlete Success
- **Sara Robson** – Senior Associate Director of Athletics, Internal Operations
- **Jordan Harmon** – Senior Associate Director of Athletics, Revenue Generation and Brand Advancement
- **Lisa Varytimidis** – Deputy Director of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrator, Student Athlete Welfare

Proposed New Staff Members

- **Mental Health Professional – Counselor**
- **Nutrition and Strength & Training**

- **Katie Ethridge, Associate Director of Athletics, Student Athlete Success**

- Overall 3.326 GPA – Highest recorded
- 21 Fall 2020 graduates; 75 May 2021 graduates with 8 Master's Degrees
- SAAC (Student Athlete Advisory Committee) – raised \$8500 for Turner's Heroes, non-profit for pediatric cancer patients; also volunteered at Loaves & Fishes; Virtual Bingo with Assisted Living residents; Virtual Book Reading with elementary school students.

- **Tara Patterson, Assistant Director of Athletics, Compliance**

- Dead period for recruiting will continue until 31 May 2021 and then on 1 June 2021 on ground recruiting can start again.
- **Uniform Transfer Rule** -All Division I student-athletes will have a one-time opportunity to transfer and compete immediately beginning in the 2021-22 academic year, if legislation adopted by the Division I Council is ratified by the Division I Board of Directors. The board meets April 28.
 - APR will be reviewed.
 - Waiver guidelines being reviewed
 - Basketball, Baseball, Football – transfer 1 time; immediately eligible; enter the transfer portal
 - Deadlines to enter Transfer Portal as coaches will need time to coach for roster replacements
- **Name, Image and Likeness** – decision was paused for Covid; Individuals can engage in NIL activities that are consistent with the law of the state where the school is located. Colleges and universities may be a resource for state law questions.
- **Initial Eligibility** - Students who intend to play D1 or D2 sports won't be required to take the ACT or SAT by the NCAA. For student-athletes enrolling in a Division I college in the 2021–22 or 2022-23 school year, NCAA eligibility rules require a 2.3 grade-point average in 16 NCAA core courses. Ten of those courses (seven in math, science and English) have to be completed by the seventh semester of high school.