

## Standing Committee Annual Report

Name of Committee or Council:

Athletic Committee

Chair:

Cindy Taylor

Meeting Dates in Current Year:

9 Nov 2021 and 18 April 2022

Major Actions or Accomplishments:

See following pages for agenda and minutes from our Fall and Spring meetings 2021-2022

### 2021-2022

### Athletic Committee Standing Report

Name	Area	Department	Service Term
Cindy Taylor, Chair	Faculty, Athletics Representative	Biology	<i>Defined by Position</i>
Don Dailey	Faculty, CoSTEM	Biology	2021-2024
Sarai Ward	Faculty, CoBHS	HHP	2021-2024
Charles Wallace Cross	Faculty, CoAL	History and Philosophy	2021-2024
Christopher Wright	Faculty, CoBHS	Criminal Justice	2019-2022
Thomas J. Buttery	Faculty, CoE	Education Specialties	2019-2022
John Schnettler	Faculty at large, Director of Athletic Band	Music	<i>ex officio</i>
Kassie Stanfill	Women's Softball	Athletics	2021-2022
Lynn Fisher	Staff, Finance and Administration	Emergency Management	2021-2022
Zack Inman	Staff, Student Affairs	Housing	2021-2022
Sara Newton	Staff, Finance and Administration	Public Safety	2019-2022
Gerald Harrison	Staff, Athletic Director	Athletics	<i>ex officio</i>
Lisa Varytimidis	Staff, Senior Woman Administrator	Athletics	<i>ex officio</i>
Sheila Bryant	Staff, Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action	Office of Equity, Access & Inclusion	2019-2022
Mikaela Smith	Student by Dir AAS	Student Representative	2021-2022
Anton Damberg	Student by Dir AAS	Student Representative	2021-2022
Alexis Osowski	Student by Dir AAS	Student Representative	2021-2022
Jacob Caughell	Student by Dir AAS	Student Representative	2021-2022



## Agenda

Date 11.9.21

### ***Austin Peay State University Athletic Committee Meeting***

1. Introductions
2. Comments from **Gerald Harrison**, Director of Athletics
3. Academic Report 2020-2021 from **Katie Ethridge**, Director of Academic Services
4. Compliance Review 2020-2021 by **Tara Patterson**, Assistant Director of Athletics/Compliance
  - i. APR report for 20-21 cohort
  - ii. Covid-19 Updates
5. Year End FAR report for 2020-2021 from **Cindy Taylor**, Chair and Faculty Athletics Representative



## ***APSU Athletic Committee Meeting Minutes***

***9 November 2021***

### **6. Introductions**

- a. Chris Wright; Tom Buttery; Lynn Fisher; Sara Newton; Cindy Taylor; Gerald Harrison; Lisa Varytimidis; Tara Patterson; Katie Ethridge

### **7. Comments from Gerald Harrison, Director of Athletics**

- a. Starting on 1 July 2022, APSU will join the ASUN Conference. This move will allow growth. APSU should see financial growth and be challenged competitively. Currently, we are the 13<sup>th</sup> member to join the ASUN conference. We are familiar with several of the universities: University of Central Arkansas, Eastern Kentucky University, Jacksonville State University and Bellarmine are just a few examples.
- b. ASUN has 10 million homes in the footprint of the conference teams versus 3 million homes in the footprint of the OVC conference teams.
- c. APSU University Athletics has also partnered with Sabertooth Sports & Entertainment , LLC (SS&E, owned by Predators Holdings, LLC). They will serve as the exclusive third-party ticket, premium and sponsorship sales agency for APSU-hosted varsity sporting events. *“SS&E will manage sales endeavors for the APSU Governors’ football, men’s basketball, women’s basketball, baseball and softball games, and other similar events. Additionally, SS&E will be responsible for premium sales and other guest experiences, including suites, patron enhancements, parking, hospitality areas, plaza activations and concession sales. SS&E will also be charged with the responsibility of providing marketing and promotional support for social media, website, email or other marketing advertisements and media placements.”* APSU will benefit from the Predators reach and experience in managing Bridgestone Arena which has historically been a Top 5 facility ticket sales in the United States.
- d. SS&E and F&M Bank have partnered for a multiyear naming rights agreement for the multi-purpose event center being built in downtown Clarksville. The F&M Bank Arena will be the home of the APSU Women’s and Men’s Basketball Teams. The F&M Bank will also host other sporting events, concerts, banquets, conventions, trade shows and other events. The capacity for basketball games will be 5,500.
- e. The partnership between SS&E and APSU will also afford APSU Season Ticket owners discounted tickets for Bridgestone Arena events.
- f. 20 November 2021 will be Predator’s Day at the APSU Football game. SMASHVILLE supports STACHEVILLE!

- g. Student-Athlete Support Services led by Katie Ethridge continues to excel in serving our student-athletes.
- h. **QUESTIONS – Committee member Dr. Wright asked why Faculty and Staff do not receive complimentary tickets to APSU athletic events. Dr. Wright has talked to many faculty about this issue and many faculty came from smaller and larger schools where athletic event tickets were complimentary. Director of Athletics Harrison responded that it is important to have a value on a ticket. In his experience with football games at Duke University, offering complimentary tickets does not always equate with increased attendance. Director of Academic Services Ethridge said that at the beginning of the this Fall 2021 semester, 40 faculty were emailed to inquire if they would like to be attend a home football game and be recognized for their contributions to APSU student-athletes. Of the 40 faculty, two faculty replied and they were acknowledged, and attended the football game. The discussion about complimentary tickets to faculty and staff will again be addressed in the Spring 2022 Athletic Committee meeting.**
- i. **COMMENTS – Committee member Dr. Buttery offered the comments about a recent football game (6 November 2021): 1. The recognitions during the timeouts and halftime were numerous and distracting to him. 2. The numbers on the football jerseys are too small.**

#### **8. Academic Report 2020-2021 from Katie Ethridge, Director of Academic Services**

- a. Student-Athlete Support Services (SASS) had some staff changes recently. **Morgan Mitchell** was hired as the Academic Coordinator for Football as Haley Meier moved on to Texas Christian University as the Director of Football Academics. **Matthew Kilpatrick** was hired as the Director of Student-Athlete Development and will be the athletic academic advisor for baseball, women's basketball, soccer and volleyball. Matthew replaces Ryan Combs, who moved internally to APSU Advising as the Student Success Coordinator of First Year Seminar and the Peer Leader Program.
- b. All APSU athletic teams had at least a 3.0 gpa for 2020-2021 and this is the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive semester with 3.0 or above for the department.
- c. OVC Honors
  - i. Men's Basketball, Football, Women's Golf, Men's and Women's Tennis all won the OVC Team Academic Awards.
  - ii. Five APSU student-athletes were named as CoSIDA All-District Award winners.
  - iii. NCAA AASP Grant – SASS received \$100,000 grant from the NCAA for summer school tuition and fees.
  - iv. Molly Howard, an APSU Cross Country student-athlete was named the Board of Trustees student trustee for 2021-2022.
  - v. See the attachment for more details about Student-Athlete success for 2020-2021.

#### **9. Compliance Review 2020-2021 by Tara Patterson, Assistant Director of Athletics/Compliance**

- a. Student-Athletes (SA) no longer have to maintain a 2.6 gpa to maintain academic eligibility.
- b. Only one athletic team did not have 1000 (perfect score) for their Academic Progress Rate (APR) in 2020-2021. That team's score was still well above 930. To remain eligible for post-season competition, team APR scores must be above 930. Detailed APR will be released by the NCAA on 2 December 2021.
- c. No more season waivers to SA because of the pandemic.
- d. Baseball can increase their roster from 35 to 39/42 and scholarship awards increased from 27 to 32.
- e. Basketball team managers can participate as a practice player and in the event, a coach is absent, the Director of Operations can provide instruction and participate as a practice player.

- f. Football – a one time transfer waiver will be in effect for 2022-23. FCS (Football Championship Series) football teams can have 30 new SA and can offer 63 SA financial aid with a total football roster of 85.
- g. QUESTION – from Committee Member Dr. Wright confirmed that Academic Progress Rate is really a percentage (e.g., 978 = 0.978 and 1000 = 100.0).

**10. Year End FAR report for 2020-2021 from Cindy Taylor, Chair and Faculty Athletics Representative**

- a. Our OVC Scholar Athlete Nominees for 2020-2021 were: **Lexi Osowski**, a senior softball player from San Diego, California and she is majoring in HHP (Applied Exercise Science) and **Gino Avros**, a senior baseball player from Clarksville, Tennessee and he is majoring in HHP (Public Health).
- b. APSU Athletics was named the OVC's Institutional Sportsmanship Award winner for 2020-2021. We have five teams receive the OVC Team Sportsmanship Award (Women's Golf, Softball, Men and Women's Tennis, and Volleyball).
- c. In my role as Faculty Athletic Representative, I continue to participate with the following entities:
  - i. Faculty Athletic Representative Association
  - ii. NCAA (member of the NCAA's Walter Byers Scholarship Committee, 2021-2025)
  - iii. OVC Service – Cabinet member for Governance, Administration and Student-Athlete Experience
  - iv. APSU Service
    - 1. APSU Athletic Committee – Chair and Member
    - 2. APSU Financial Aid and Scholarships Appeal Board Committee - member
    - 3. APSU Title IX and Gender Equity Committee - member
    - 4. APSU Athletic Facility Naming Committee - member
    - 5. APSU Athletic Jersey Retirement - member
    - 6. APSU Athletic Town Hall Meeting – participant
    - 7. ASUN Conference Transition Meeting – participant
  - v. Participate in SA Certification meetings (May, August and December)
  - vi. Administer the NCAA's Recruiting Test to coaches (approximately 50 coaches over 11 individual test dates)
- d. QUESTION – Committee Member Fisher asked what the committee members could do to assist with the mission of the Athletic Committee.



## Agenda

**04.18.22 – 12:15 pm**

### ***Austin Peay State University Athletic Committee Meeting***

1. Introductions
2. Comments from **Gerald Harrison, Director of Athletics**
3. ~~Follow up to Faculty & Staff Athletic Event Complimentary Ticket Inquiry – Chris Wright, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and Athletic Committee Member~~ **Member was absent so this topic was not discussed in the Spring 2022 meeting.**
4. Fall 2021 Academic Report from **Katie Ethridge, Assistant Athletics Director/Academic Services**
5. Compliance Report from **Tara Patterson, Assistant Director of Athletics/Compliance**
6. Comments, **Cindy Taylor, Chair and Faculty Athletics Representative**
7. Other Items?

## ***APSU Athletic Committee Meeting Minutes***

***18 April 2022***

**1. Report from Gerald Harrison**

- a. The Athletics department has hired Teresa Prendes-Walls to work full time with student-athletes in the area of mental and behavioral health. Her office will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Dunn Center. Shantelle Meharry will be assisting with alcohol/drug education.
- b. Currently, women's golf, men's golf, beach volleyball, outdoor track, softball and baseball are preparing for OVC Championships.
- c. APSU Athletics is partnered with Sabertooth Sports. As a result, athletics has 22 new corporate sponsorships (in kind gifts, cash and product). Many are buying in now in anticipation of the opening of the new F&M Bank Arena. Parker Phillips is the Account Executive for Sponsorship Sales and Johnny Mitchell is APSU's Guest Experience Team Member.
- d. Joe and Cathi Maynard have pledged \$15 million to the Athletic Department. *"The historic gift – the largest single gift in the history of Austin Peay State University – will further the objectives of Austin Peay athletics' 'Total Gov Concept' by assisting with facility upgrades to all athletics facilities, expanding the commitment to student-athlete performance excellence, the development of the student athletes, and the recruitment and retention of coaches and staff among other objectives."* Renovations will be completed on the Dunn Center Weight Room and Training Room and the room formerly known as the Gov's Club is also being renovated.
- e. F&M Bank Arena build is coming along nicely. Tentative opening is July 2023.
- f. By joining the ASUN Conference on July 1, 2022, the Athletics Department was required to have an External Title IX review. This review will occur 25-28 April. Early thoughts are to add a women's sport (e.g., Triathlon, Gymnastics, Bowling) so that the number of female athletic scholarships increase.
- g. The turf is being replaced this summer in Fortera Stadium. Additionally, Ron and Andrea Morton made a donation to replace the track surface around the football field.

**2. Report from Katie Ethridge (Fall 2021 semester report)**

- a. The departmental GPA for Fall 2021 was 3.351. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive semester with a departmental GPA above 3.0 and the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive semester with all teams above a 3.0 GPA.
- b. Sixty-five student athletes earned a 4.0 GPA
- c. Academic support is searching for a staff member to support the Football team and a Graduate Assistant.
- d. There were 15 student-athletes that graduated in December 2021.
- e. There will be 59 student-athletes graduating in May 2022 and 13 student-athletes graduating in August 2022.
- f. Four of our student-athletes were Hattie Walker Wilhoite Honorees for 2022.
- g. Molly Howard, a student-athlete was awarded the Harvill Citizenship Award for 2021-2022.
- h. College Breakdown of Student-Athletes for 2021-2022

Graduate	Arts and Letters	Health & Behavioral Sciences	Business	Education	STEM
31	18	127	93	13	30

### 3. Report from Tara Patterson

- a. NCAA Transformational Committee – the purpose of this committee is to: *“The environment surrounding college sports has undergone unprecedented change in recent years. To continue to serve the student-athlete, college sports must adapt as well. The Division I Transformation Committee was formed to lead this endeavor and to provide recommendations to the NCAA to consider implementing as it seeks to embrace forward-looking change. Our success will be measured by two factors: whether our recommendations support opportunities for today’s student-athletes and ensure the continued excellence of intercollegiate athletics. We recognize that this is a big challenge before us, requiring true transformation. Everything is on the table, and all options are being fully explored and evaluated. As we get further along in our process, we invite you to come back to this page to stay up to date on the latest news and developments.”* For up-to-date work by the committee visit this link: <https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2021/11/3/division-i-transformation-committee.aspx>
- b. Rules Changes
  - i. FB Summer – 2 hours instruction with a total of 8 hours/week
- c. Covid Waivers Expiring
- d. ACT/SAT will be permanently removed as a requirement by 2023
- e. 2.3 GPA in 16 core classes required
- f. Title IX – review and screen all student-athletes for a sexual violent past and the student-athletes will sign a disclosure form.
- g. Name Image Likeness (NIL) – states are handling this very differently
- h. Transfer Portal – one time transfer afforded to baseball (student-athlete doesn’t have to sit for one year)

### 4. Report from Cindy Taylor, FAR

- a. Currently serving on the NCAA Committee to evaluate and review applicants for the Walter Byers Scholarship (27 female applicants and 7 male applicants) and the Jim McKay Scholarship (8 female applicants and 1 male applicant). We started the review of applicants in January and met three male and three female finalists for the Walter Byers Scholarship in person at NCAA National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. We interviewed three female and one male finalists via Zoom in the same weekend (22-24 April 2022).
- b. I am also serving on the NCAA Region 6 Post-graduate Scholarship Review Committee. I participated in April/May for the Spring cycle. We evaluated 22 female applicants and 10 male applicants.