

*Minutes of the Presidential Committee on Athletics*

*Zoom Meeting*

*December 3, 2020*

**Members Present:** Cavey Lang, Colin, Courter, Foley Nicpon, Friestad, Gerke, Grosland, Hollingworth, Kehoe, Kelly, Matheson, Mueller, Nonnenmann, Sayon, Torner, Vogan, Voss, and Zaharis.

**Members Absent:** Berg and Weinstein.

**Also Present:** Barta (Henry B. and Patricia B. Tippie Director of Athletics Chair), Binns (Executive Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion); Burke (Deputy Director of Athletics), Clerry (Associate Athletics Director), Conroy (Secretary/Treasurer, ISAAC), Davies (Assistant Athletics Director/Chief Financial Officer), Grooms (Assistant Professor, College of Education), Hansen (Vice President for Student Life), Henderson (Senior Associate Athletics Director), Hilleman (Associate Athletics Director), Hines (Emeritus Faculty Council), Lehnertz (Senior Vice President, Finance & Operations), Mineart (President, Staff Council), Modestou (Director of Equal Opportunity & Diversity and Deputy Title IX Coordinator), Piro (Assistant Athletics Director & Executive Director-Varsity Club), Roe (Director of Athletics Communications), Tovar (Associate Athletics Director and Interim Associate VP of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion), Wilson (Senior Associate Athletics Director), and Wright (Associate Professor, Molecular Physiology & Biophysics).

**Guest Present:** Andrew Carter (Head Rowing Coach).

The meeting was brought to order at 4:02 p.m. by Chair Zaharis.

**I. Approval of Minutes - November 5, 2020**

A motion to approve the November 5, 2020, minutes was made by Courter and seconded by Gerke. Unanimous approval was received from Committee members.

**II. Head Coach Introduction - Andrew Carter, Head Rowing Coach**

Coach Carter reminisced about the moment he and his team received the COVID-19 news on March 20, 2020, that all team activities were halted and classes moved online. He stated how proud he is of how the rowers handled the situation and embraced the new normal. Coach commended Athletics Department administrative staff for their leadership

through this unprecedented time and for granting student-athletes an additional year of eligibility.

All rowing senior student-athletes are returning, except for one who took an incredible job offer. Remaining team members are also coming back, joined by two transfer student-athletes to begin competition in January 2021.

Coach spoke about his staff's recruiting efforts to discover talented high school rowing students throughout the country, seek international candidates, and look for competitors in other sports whose athletics talents could transfer to rowing. He and his coaches have developed good working relationships with the Admissions and On Iowa staffs to help identify potential team members.

Coach answered questions regarding summer rowing participation opportunities and the team's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan. Chair Zaharis thanked Coach Carter.

### **III. Chair Report - Zaharis**

- A. Matheson will moderate a panel discussion on "The Business of Sports: Insights into the world of sports from Tippie alumni working in the industry." Conversations will focus on how the sports industry has changed, how to position yourself to work in sports, and what the future of sports looks like from Tippie alumni working across the world of sports.

PCA members are welcome to join the event on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. CST. Contact Matheson for Zoom details.

- B. Rhodes Scholar Marissa Mueller appears on the front page of today's *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, honoring her as a recipient of this prestigious award. An article also appeared in *The Gazette and Iowa Now*. The UI has had 22 Rhodes Scholars; Mueller is the second female UI recipient since women were allowed as candidates in 1977. Only 100 people in the entire world have this opportunity annually. On behalf of the PCA, Chair Zaharis congratulated her on this special honor.

Mueller thanked Committee members for the kind words. She stated her success at Iowa would not have been possible without the community of support she received from myriad faculty, staff, coaches, teammates, academic counselors, and others at Iowa. Mueller's goal is to obtain her Master's Degree or Doctor of Philosophy in Research and Surgical Sciences.

### **IV. Subcommittee Updates**

#### **A. Academic Achievement - Gerke**

- I. Gerke stated questions surfaced involving sport competitions scheduled the weekend before and after final exam week, which violates PCA policy.

Subcommittee members discussed the matter. On behalf of the subcommittee, Gerke recommends the following: Due to the ongoing issues in the Big Ten Conference related to COVID-19, there was great difficulty in scheduling athletic events for football and the basketball programs. Many of these issues were largely out of the control of the Iowa Athletics Department, and final schedules for the basketball teams were released Thanksgiving week. Due to the unprecedented scheduling issues, there are football as well as men's and women's basketball games that have been scheduled on the weekend before and the weekend after finals week. The PCA has asked the Athletics Department to determine affected students who may be traveling during their scheduled exams, so there is an opportunity to mitigate any conflicts. Due to this unique situation, subcommittee members request a motion to suspend the PCA Missed-Class Days Policy, section B & C, that relate to travel and participation in athletic events during and around finals week for the fall 2020 semester. Nonnenmann moved to approve the recommendation of the Academic Achievement Subcommittee; Friestad seconded.

Chair Zaharis opened the floor to discussion. Tovar stated about 25 student-athletes could be affected across the three sports, and added letters were sent to faculty members. Affected student-athletes will contact their professors to reschedule final exam times, and Student-Athlete Academic Services staff will assist as needed. Tovar noted some faculty have already agreed to move exam times for conflicts with competitions. Athletics Department tutors will be available during finals week.

Upon no further conversation, Chair Zaharis called for a vote. The Committee granted full approval.

2. At the last subcommittee meeting, Tovar discussed the NCAA's Graduation Success Rates (GSR). Accompanying her were John Bruno (Director for Retention), Betsy Kern (Tutoring & Retention Coordinator), and Chandler Easley (Learning Specialist). The discussion revealed UI student-athletes graduated at a rate of 89 percent, which is the sixth-highest score in the Big Ten, 11 teams were at or above last year's score, and seven teams had a perfect score. Over half of the teams were at or above their average score for their sport in the GSR and the Federal Graduation Rate.

Student-Athlete Academic Services representatives discussed what adversely affects the GSR, such as the transfer portal, misconduct, student-athletes who leave to pursue professional sports, etc. They also discussed measures to improve GSR scores.

3. Wright asked what the GSR rate is for Black student-athletes across all sports. Tovar stated 79%.

**B. Equity - Nonnenmann**

Equity Subcommittee members will meet with Clerry to discuss scholarships and budgets across all sport programs. Another topic to be addressed is how to optimize data collected by the subcommittee for analysis; Foley Nicpon will review existing questionnaires and make recommendations.

**C. Student-Athlete Well-Being - Torner**

Torner reported the subcommittee met November 12, 2020, with Office of the Registrar staff Gail Meade, Sara Morelli, and Merrie Yates to discuss academic eligibility and certification. Members reviewed NCAA rules on academic performance, progression toward earning a degree, and the process of notifying student-athletes when course performance is substandard. The NCAA audit report on Iowa's student-athlete performance indicates 71 percent are on a trajectory to earn a degree, 27 percent have yet to declare a major, and less than two percent have generally correctable issues.

Torner congratulated and encouraged student-athletes to remain COVID-free. He especially wants to thank athletic trainers for their exemplary work. Chair Zaharis thanked Torner for his report.

**V. ISAAC Report - Conroy**

The ISAAC report will be given this semester by Conroy, who represents Mueller.

- A. ISAAC's annual "Adopt-A-Family" event was a success. All sport teams participated.
- B. The final meeting this year takes place Wednesday, December 9, 2020. Discussion topics will focus on mental health and diversity, equity, & inclusion.

**VI. NCAA Report - Barta, Burke, Grosland, Hollingworth**

Barta reported the following:

- A. The NCAA Division I Council will meet December 16, 2020. Barta stated discussions continue on eligibility, financial aid, and recruiting.
- B. Olympic sports schedules are being formulated. Competitions will start in January 2021.

**VII. Athletics Director's Report - Barta**

- A. Big Ten Conference officials have discussions weekly about allowing fans at sporting events.

**B.** Men's basketball competes against Western Illinois tonight in Carver-Hawkeye Arena at 7:00 p.m. The game airs on the Big Ten Network.

Iowa's team currently has 3 wins and no losses. Luka Garza continues to be mentioned as the best basketball player in America.

**C.** Football has 4 wins and 2 losses. The team travels to Champaign, IL, this weekend for a 2:30 p.m. kickoff against the Illini. Fox Sports 1 will cover the contest.

**D.** Women's basketball student-athletes Caitlin Clark is proving herself to be an elite player as a true freshman. The team beat Drake last night and will compete next with Wisconsin on Saturday, December 5, 2020, 2:00 p.m., in Carver-Hawkeye Arena. Iowa's record to date is 2 wins and no losses.

**E.** A good deal of planning and collaboration took place with nonconference opponents to implement Big Ten COVID-19 testing procedures to ensure everyone's safety during these competitions.

**VIII. Adjourn**

Chair Zaharis ended today's meeting at 5:07 p.m.



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Rae L. Parker  
Recording Secretary