

University of North Alabama

Athletics Committee Agenda

January 17, 2025

Pierce Hospitality Suite at 1:00 PM

Members present: Melanie Looser, Chase Wise, Kate Hanberry, Alyson Berger (Proxy for K. C. White), Scott Infanger, Debbie Williams, Evan Thornton, Scott Lyons, Lauren Killen, Janae Lyde, Anna Milwee, Corrie Dalrymple, Laurie Holder, Josh Looney

Call to order at 1:07 AM

- 1) Approval of agenda
 - a) Motion to approve agenda by A. Milwee, seconded by J. Lyde, and unanimously approved.
- 2) Approval of minutes (September)
 - a) Discussion: These minutes were approved by email and submitted by M. Looser.
 - b) Action: No further action.
- 3) Minority Opportunity Sub-Committee Report
 - a) Discussion: Minority workgroup met on Wednesday, January 15th 2025. The athletic mentorship program was discussed. The fall semester began with 39 mentees and 36 mentors. Two events were held during the fall semester and good turnout was recorded. Currently, we are to a total of 35 mentees and 33 mentors, and most of these changes were reflective of students graduating or leaving the university. There are three upcoming events scheduled in the spring (January, February, and April). The minority strategic plan expired last spring, and was reviewed by the group. The by-laws and verbiage were reviewed and updated.
 - b) Action: J. Lyde will work on that verbiage, and take it to the subcommittee for approval. After that, she will present it here for discussion and approval as well.
- 4) Gender Equity Sub-Committee Report
 - a) Discussion: No updated report was given by S. Kennemer regarding the gender-equity subcommittee. At this time, they have not met this academic year.
 - b) Action: None at this time. M. Looser will reach out to S. Kennemer to assess further needs.

5) Compliance Report

- a) Discussion: The athletic department finished the fall semester with an overall 3.26 GPA (highest fall GPA on record), many with a 4.0 GPA. Beach volleyball led the way with an overall 3.7 GPA and women's basketball had their highest GPA since the D1 transition (3.58). Student athletes had over 2100 community service hours in the fall. On December 23, 2024, the NCAA granted a waiver to allow all Division I athletes who attended non-NCAA schools to remain eligible for the 2025-26 season. This waiver came after a court ruling that granted Vanderbilt quarterback Diego Pavia an extra year of eligibility. Currently, we have roughly 16 student athletes in similar situations.
- b) Action: None at this time. UNA will await further development on this case and how this will impact student athletes in our program.

6) Athletic Director Report

- a) House Settlement: Dr. Looney discussed updates on the House Settlement and how the revenue projections are trending. The ongoing developments of this settlement and the new financial considerations and their potential impact on UNA were discussed at length. Dr. Looney brought an overview from his recent meeting for the committee to review. This document contains more detail on this development (see Appendix A).
- b) Facilities and Stadium developments: The Bank Independent Stadium continues to progress and building crews are likely to be on site as early as the end of January. The baseball field development is 6-8 weeks behind schedule, but are working to meet the targeted deadline. Currently, the baseball team is utilizing other facilities within the community for practice until the field is completed.
- c) Action: UNA will continue to monitor trends and adjust according to these developments. Groundwork will continue across campus for facility updates and enhancements.

7) Faculty Athletics Representative Report

- a) Discussion: Due to teaching responsibilities, the FAR was unable to attend this meeting. Student academic reports were given by Ms. Milwee and is recorded in the compliance section above.

- b) Action: None at this time.
- 8) Old Business
 - a) Elect a vice-chair
 - i) Dr. Scott Lyons was nominated and elected to serve as vice-chair for the 2024-2025 academic year.
 - ii) No further action at this time.
- 9) New Business
 - a) Complete SGEC Survey Link
 - i) Discussion: The questions from the survey are listed below. Each item was reviewed with the committee and discussed to ensure accuracy. Listed below are the questions from the SGEC survey and the answers to be recorded on our behalf:
 - Are there parts of the committee's charge that need additions or deletions? Please provide us with a detailed explanation of what would change.
 - Updates to item #2 in the charge to reflect current branding and best-practice recommendations.
 - **Current verbiage:** Ensure the integrity of the athletics program with regard to NCAA, ASUN Conference, state and federal law compliance, gender equity and support for the principles presented by the Knight Foundation's Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics
 - **Proposed verbiage:** Ensure the integrity of the athletics program by maintaining compliance with NCAA regulations, the United Athletic Conference, the Atlantic Sun Conference, state and federal laws, and gender equity, while adhering to NCAA recommendations for best practices.
 - Were you able to include a resource person (e.g., past committee chair or member) in your analyses to provide historical context to the committee's past and present purpose.
 - Yes. Many of the committee members have substantial historical knowledge and were present at the time of this review.

- In 2023-2024, how many times did the committee meet? Does the current committee feel this was adequate to meet its goals?
 - The committee met three times and it is determined that this was sufficient to accomplish the requirements of the charge.
- Does the committee feel the makeup of its current membership is adequate? If no, please explain how you would alter the membership?
 - Yes. It was suggested that legal counsel could be considered should certain activities within the committee benefit from legal guidance. However, it is not necessary for each routine committee meeting.
- Do you feel the membership is consistently present, and participates to fulfill the charge of the committee?
 - Yes. The majority of the committee members are in attendance at each meeting or send proxy representatives when absences occur.
- Please provide us with any additional information you'd like to share.
 - Not applicable.

ii) Action: M. Looser will submit these at the request of the SGEC president.

10) Adjourn at 2:01 PM

Respectfully Submitted on January 23, 2025,

Dr. Melanie B. Looser

Athletic Committee Chair

2024-2025 Academic Year