



Athletics Committee
November 30, 2021
3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Hoyle, Chair
Betsy Oakley
Brad Hayes
Haz Mengesha
Elizabeth C. Phillips

OTHERS PRESENT: Frank Gilliam, Chancellor; Jerry Blakemore, General Counsel; Kristen Bonatz, Associate General Counsel; Kevin Bostian, Interim Director of Athletics; Tara Bettle, Student Athlete; Waiyi Tse, Chief of Staff; Kelly Harris, Associate Chief of Staff and Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees, and other members of faculty, staff, and the general public.

Proceedings: Chair George Hoyle called the meeting to order 3:32 pm and read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement from the State Government Ethics Act. No conflicts were identified.

Roll call was read and a quorum was confirmed.

Approval of Minutes: On roll call vote, the minutes of the September 28, 2021 committee meeting were approved without additions or corrections.

Discussion/Information Items:

ATH - 1 Student-Athlete Guest Speaker - Tara Bettle

Chair Hoyle introduced Women's Golf Student-Athlete Tara Bettle, who is an international student-athlete from Germany. She has an undergraduate degree in Marketing and is working on

her masters in Retail Studies. Tara is the winner of the Pinehurst Intercollegiate Championship, which qualified her for the North-South Championship. She is also on the Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll and All Conference team.

Tara represented UNCG and the Southern Conference at the 2021 NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum in November in Houston, TX. There were approximately 300 Student-Athletes and Administrators in attendance with three representatives per conference. Tara described the conference as transformational, intense, and one of the best experiences of her life; she returned with invaluable leadership skills, a refined understanding of the relationship among personal values, core beliefs, and behavioral styles; and developed a close personal network of like-minded peers to provide continued connection and dialogue after the program concluded. The conference featured motivational guest speakers and offered workshops and small group exercises as well as a community service project benefitting hospitalized children.

Discussing her experience as an international student-athlete, Tara shared that her coaches, teammates, and professors have made her feel at home here. She shared her methods for managing the demands on her time, including planning in advance and a focus on communication. When asked by Chancellor Gilliam about her experience with academic counseling, Tara reported that she had a very good experience with the academic coaches and that the structured study hall environment was very helpful to her early in her career here.

ATH - 2 Update on Intercollegiate Athletics

Kevin Bostian, Interim Director of Athletics, presented a Fall and Winter Sports Update and a fundraising update.

Most of the fall sports have concluded their seasons and many programs having had much success. Men's soccer finished at 13-4-1 and won the regular season SoCon Championship. They lost in the semifinals in the SoCon tournament and narrowly missed the NCAA tournament - the first team to fall outside the tournament selection. Eight soccer players were named to the All-Conference team. Theo Collumb was named Player of the Year; J.C. Ngando was named Freshman of the Year, and Coach Rich was selected as Coach of the Year.

Volleyball was regular season Conference Co-Champion, the program's first championship since 1995 when UNCG was a member of the Big South. Graduate transfer Kayla White was named Player of the Year and Coach Carlin was named Coach of the Year. The team was upset in the Conference tournament quarterfinals by Citadel, which went on to win the championship. The team will play in the NIT Championship tournament.

Under interim Head Coach Kaleigh Roach, Men's and Women's Cross Country had the highest finishes in the NCAA Regionals since 1993. The women finished fourth in the SoCon Championships (vs. preseason rank of 7th) and the Men finished 5th. In the Southeast Region Championships, the Men finished 20th and the Women finished 22nd. There has been great

growth in both programs.

Women's Soccer finished sixth in the conference, and goalkeeper Aiyanah Tyler-Cooper signed a professional contract with a team in Spain starting this January.

The winter sports season has kicked off with Men's and Women's Basketball. Coach Jones and the Men's team is off to a strong start at 6-2, with the two losses coming in overtime. The A&T game had the highest student attendance ever at 3,300. UNCG Olympian Track star Paul Chelimo was recognized at the game and attended a dinner with athletics donors. Women's basketball is off to a 3-3 start.

Athletics' Fundraising has had a strong several months since the Committee's September meeting. We have received \$575,000 in major gift commitments from five different donors. The gifts will go toward sports specific enrichment funds, a scholarship endowment, and the annual scholarship fund. Alum Kevin Graves, who serves on the Athletics Campaign Committee, has made a generous gift of \$275,000 and wants to publicize the donation to encourage other African Americans and People of Color to engage, contribute, and help influence change.

Bostian highlighted that there will be a 1st Pitch Baseball dinner on January 15th. The guest speaker is Mike Fox, former Head Coach at UNC Chapel Hill and a member of the NC Sports Hall of Fame.

ATH - 3 Update on Cross Country/Track Head Coach Search

Bostian shared that the Cross Country/Track Head Coach Search has gone well with a diverse, qualified pool of candidates. Athletics narrowed the pool down to eight and conducted preliminary virtual interviews with those candidates. Of those, four were selected for in-person interviews from November 1st through November 15th. These candidates met individuals within Athletics, four current Cross Country/Track student-athletes, a Cross Country/Track alumnus, and the University General Counsel. All were strong candidates but it was determined that Kaleigh Roach, the current interim Head Coach, is the best fit for the program. An offer has been extended but the Board must approve it at a later meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly Harris
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees