



Athletics Committee
September 27, 2022
3:30 p.m.

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: George Hoyle, Chair; Brad Hayes, Betsy Oakley, Haz Mengesha, Elizabeth C. Phillips

OTHERS PRESENT: Frank Gilliam, Chancellor; Jerry Blakemore, General Counsel; Brian Mackin, Director of Athletics; Waiyi Tse, Chief of Staff; Kelly Harris, Associate Chief of Staff and Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees; Andrew Cagle, Director of State and External Affairs, and other members of faculty, staff, and the general public.

Proceedings: Chair George Hoyle called the meeting to order at 3:30 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

The minutes of the March 22, 2022 Athletics Committee meeting were approved without additions or corrections.

Discussion Items:

ATH – 1 Student Athlete Speaker

Chair Hoyle welcomed Zach Budzik, a graduate baseball player. Zach is an honor roll student and four-year starter who plays shortstop and has accumulated numerous SoCon Player of the Week and All Conference awards. Zach works part time for Triad Financial Advisors and hopes to continue playing baseball after college, if possible.

Zach discussed his experience as a student athlete at UNCG and his impressions of the culture of success the Athletics Department is building, including the facility improvements and lifelong friendships and experiences that he has cultivated here. He told the committee that UNCG is a special place to be a student-athlete.

Athletics Director Brian Mackin quoted Baseball Head Coach Billy Godwin in saying “At the entrance to the locker room is posted our core values: Loyalty, Trust, Accountability, Responsibility, Toughness, and Work Ethic. Zach exemplifies all of them and is respected by his teammates. He is a great ambassador for the University.”

ATH - 2 Fall Sports Update

Mackin updated the Committee on the status of fall sports, noting that we have had numerous athletes in multiple sports earn Southern Conference Player of the Week recognitions as well as one National Team Player of the Week.

Men’s Soccer is ranked #18 in the country, the team’s best start since 2004. Women’s soccer is ranked 43rd nationally and has the hardest schedule in the Southern Conference. Volleyball is a young team trying to find chemistry. Cross Country performed well at a recent exhibition meet. Basketball practice has just started; the women’s team is optimistic for a better year than last and the men’s team looks primed for a strong season.

ATH – 3 Fundraising Update

Mackin reported that critical positions have been filled: Mike Roach has been named Executive Associate Athletics Director of External Operations and Chase Blake has been hired as Associate Athletics Director of Development. Blake comes to UNCG following two years at Troy and five years at East Carolina University in a similar role. Additionally, Michael Garrett was hired as Director of Annual Giving and brings ten years’ experience from UNC Charlotte.

Since the March 2022 Committee meeting, a major gift of \$1.6 million and approximately seven additional major gifts totaling about \$725,000 have been committed. Athletics’ overall fundraising goal is \$1M per year for five years, for a total of \$5 Million.

Mackin discussed the exceptional academic achievements of UNCG student athletes. The average GPA for all sports for the Spring 2022 semester was 3.31 and the GPA for all sports for the full 2021-2022 academic year is 3.31. Women's Golf achieved the highest spring team GPA of 3.74. Men's golf was the highest among the men's teams with a GPA of 3.73 for the spring. Our athletes had strong academic performances overall; seven teams had record breaking spring semesters and eight teams had record breaking GPAs for the academic year.

Nineteen student athletes had a cumulative 4.0 GPA for the year and thirty-seven achieved a 4.0 in the spring. Seventy-seven percent of all student athletes earned a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better and 44% made the Dean's or Chancellor's list.

Mackin noted that the graduation rate for our student athletes is 94% and emphasized the difference that the investments in athletics – in facilities, the weight room, academics, the wellness and training rooms, and in academic support services – have made.

Transition to Closed Session

Hoyle then moved that the Committee convene in closed session pursuant § 143-318.11(5) and (6) of the North Carolina Open Meetings Law to consider the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract and to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of employment or conditions of initial employment of an employee or prospective employee.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Betsy Oakley and carried unanimously.

General Account of Closed Session Discussion

Members Present: George Hoyle, Chair; Brad Hayes, Betsy Oakley, Haz Mengesha, Elizabeth C. Phillips

Others Present: Frank Gilliam, Chancellor; Jerry Blakemore, General Counsel; Brian Mackin, Director of Athletics; Waiyi Tse, Chief of Staff; Kelly Harris, Associate Chief of Staff and Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

ATH – 5 Head Coach Contract Extensions

Mackin presented three proposed extensions to previously approved head coach contracts for the committee's consideration.

Following discussion, Trustee Brad Hayes moved to return to open session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Haz Mengesha and carried unanimously.

Open Session

Hoyle invited a motion to approve the head coach contracts as presented in agenda item ATH - 5.

Trustee Betsy Oakley seconded the motion; it carried unanimously.

Hoyle noted that as recommended by the Committee, agenda item ATH-5 would be presented to the full board for approval on Thursday, September 29.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Harris

Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees