



UNC  
GREENSBORO

Board of Trustees

Athletics Committee  
February 20, 2024  
3:30 p.m.

**DRAFT MINUTES**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ernest Grant, Chair; David Brown, Dale Phipps, Tim Sessions; Awa Mbai

**MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTICE:** George Hoyle

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Frank Gilliam, Chancellor; Brian Mackin, Director of Athletics; Bob Shea, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration; Jerry Blakemore, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Integrity and General Counsel; Waiyi Tse, Chief of Staff; Kelly Harris, Associate Chief of Staff and Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees

**PROCEEDINGS:**

Chair Ernest Grant called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. 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:** Minutes of the October 10, 2023, committee meeting were approved with one correction.

**Discussion Items:**

*ATH-1 Head Coach Speaker – Janelle Breneman, Softball*

The Committee had the pleasure of hearing from Head Softball Coach Janelle Breneman. AD Mackin began the discussion by applauding Coach Breneman and the softball program as a model program at UNCG. The team's five-year average GPA is 3.57 and last semester they achieved a team average GPA of 3.73. They have been the SoCon regular season champions six

years in a row, while winning the conference tournament three times and making three appearances in the NCAA tournament.

Coach Breneman began her career at UNCG in 2012 following stints at UNC Chapel Hill and University of South Carolina, noting that UNCG's softball facilities, beautiful campus, and strong academic opportunities were strong recruiting tools.

Breneman shared that her goal is to provide her student athletes with a memorable, positive experience and to foster their growth and development as a player, student, and person. She establishes a unique identity for each team year after year, tagging each by the program year. This year's Team #39 has integrated a sports performance coach to help them define their own values, goals, identity.

Reflecting on the changes in coaching that have evolved during her career, Breneman noted the multiple technological tools that now exist and help increase quality of play and strengthen recruiting. She thanked Associate Athletics Director Jody Smith for her guidance and AD Brian Mackin for the direction in which he is taking the program. Chancellor Gilliam applauded Breneman for her enthusiasm, which has a tremendous positive impact on recruiting and team culture.

*ATH – 2 Winter Sports Update - Athletics Director Brian Mackin*

AD Mackin gave an update on the status of winter sports, beginning with the very successful Men's and Women's basketball teams. Men's basketball, currently 2nd in the conference, had a historic win over an Arkansas team ranked in the top 20 nationally at the time. Women's basketball is currently 3rd in the conference and Head Coach Trina Patterson just earned her 300th career win. Women's and Men's cross country & track indoor seasons have gone exceptionally well with dozens of personal best times and high place standings in various meets.

With respect to Spring sports in the early stages of their seasons, Mackin reported that Men's and Women's golf teams are off to an excellent start with strong results posted in Florida and Puerto Rico tournaments. Men's golf is currently ranked #41 in the country. Men's and Women's tennis are competing and working hard, with a few wins. Baseball has an interim coach and has started the season 3-0 with a big game against Wake Forest tonight. Softball has started slowly but they also have a very tough schedule early on as they prepare for conference play.

*ATH – 3 NIL & Alston Funding Discussion*

The meeting concluded with a brief discussion around NIL and Alston funding. Mackin reported that NIL is a separator of where we are and where we want to go, especially with basketball and soccer. It will be a challenge for us. Alston funding can make a difference. The NCAA allows a university to give up to \$5,980 to a student-athlete based on academics, above and beyond grant-in-aid. The amount of Alston money distributed is governed by Title 9 rules and must be distributed equally between men's and women's teams. It is an effecting recruiting tool that can help close the gap and be the differentiating factor for some student athletes' commitment decisions.

**Adjournment**

With no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Harris  
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees