



UNC GREENSBORO

Board of Trustees

Athletics Committee

October 29, 2024

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Ernest Grant, Chair; David Brown; George Hoyle; Dale Phipps; Tim Sessoms; Amber Fairchild

OTHERS PRESENT: Chancellor Frank Gilliam; Brian Mackin, Director of Athletics, Mike Jones, Men's Basketball Head Coach; 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, and other members of staff and general public.

PROCEEDINGS:

Chair Ernest Grant called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement; none were identified. Quorum was confirmed through roll call.

Minutes from the August 27, 2024 Joint Meeting of the Compliance, Audit, Risk Management and Legal Affairs (CARL) Committee and Athletics Committee were approved without additions or corrections. Minutes from the August 27, 2024 Board of Trustees Athletics Committee were approved without additions or corrections.

Open Session:

ATH – 1 Head Coach Speaker – Mike Jones, Men's Basketball

Head Men's Basketball Coach Mike Jones spoke to the Committee, discussing the significant changes in the college athletics landscape since COVID and the associated impact on UNCG. Jones' focus is on adjusting with the times and using the transfer portal to his advantage as he is essentially rebuilding a team every year. This year there are eight returners, five new additions, and seven seniors. Jones reported that although we do not have a "marquee" player, he believes there is more depth in the roster and is pleased with the direction the team is taking. He believes this could be his best team in his four-year tenure here. His focus is on building chemistry and this year he has brought in a sports psychologist to help achieve this.

The discussion also touched on how well UNCG is positioned with NIL and Alston money relative to the other teams in the SoCon Conference. Coach Jones reported that because we are not as well funded, he looks for undervalued players in the portal who are not as expensive, but that changes each year, particularly for players who had strong seasons. With recent litigation and pending rulings, next year is poised to become even more challenging in this unregulated environment.

Coach Jones outlined his philosophy around team goals and expectations based on team culture and relationships. He has three pillars: (1) *Brotherhood*, which is a focus on building relationships, (2) *JUICE* – Just Us In Combat Everyday – the energy and intensity of the team, which feeds off itself and makes them better as a result, and (3) *Fight for Inches* – striving to be better every day in all aspects of life - on the court, in the weight room, academically, and as a teammate, friend, and community member.

Coach closed by recognizing the reality of the new world of athletics and the impact of limited resources, stating that we have to continue to be creative in order to be competitive.

ATH – 2 Fall Sports Update

Athletics Director Brian Mackin summarized the Fall season athletic achievements. He reported that Men's and Women's Golf have had an outstanding fall. The women have greatly improved, and the men are on track to receive another at-large NCAA bid next spring. Men's Soccer is playing for the regular season championship and is the 1st seed in the upcoming SoCon Conference championships. Women's Soccer is beginning Conference Championship tournament play. Volleyball has also significantly improved this year. Overall, Mackin is pleased with how the fall season has gone. Men's and Women's Basketball season officially begins next week.

ATH – 3 Spartan Club Update

Mackin also discussed the important role of the Spartan Club in fundraising for the department and recapped several recent events. The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony that took place over Homecoming weekend was a huge success - about 200 people were in attendance to see 5 former athletes and 2 coaches inducted. It was followed by the annual Scholarship Recognition Dinner which brings together some of our most significant donors who support athletic scholarships with the student-athlete recipients of that support. Next semester will bring the Baseball First Pitch dinner, the Spartan Club Golf Classic, and Spiro's Ball, which are all solid annual fundraising events. Mackin also touched on the recent and very successful Bikes for Kids event held in Fleming Gymnasium, which hosted third grade students from 19 Guilford County Title One schools. During the event, the students learned that each would receive a bike and helmet from the Foundation for their work completing a course of study focused on staying in school. It was a wonderful event for UNCG to be part of and we hope many of those students were inspired to become Spartans.

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Harris
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees