



# UNC GREENSBORO

Board of Trustees

**Athletics Committee**

**February 4, 2025**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Ernest Grant, Chair; David Brown; Dale Phipps

**MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTICE:** George Hoyle; Tim Sessoms

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Chancellor Frank Gilliam; Brian Mackin, Director of Athletics, Jerry Blakemore, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Integrity and General Counsel; Waiyi Tse, Chief of Staff; Jody Smith, Executive Associate Athletic Director/Senior Woman Administrator; Danielle Sandridge, Executive Assistant to the Director of Athletics; 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 as required by the State Ethics Commission; none were identified. Roll call was read and a quorum was confirmed.

Minutes from the October 29, 2024, Athletics Committee meeting were approved without additions or corrections.

## **Open Session**

### *ATH – 1 Fall Sports Update*

Athletic Director Brian Mackin reported that UNCG student athletes have maintained a 3.43 overall Department GPA for the fall and a 95% Graduation Success Rate, both exceptional achievements. Men's Basketball is currently 14-9 and tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> in the conference. Women's Basketball is currently 15-6 and tied with Wofford for 1<sup>st</sup> in the conference. Men's and Women's Golf are building on an outstanding fall and Men's Golf player Kelvin Hernandez has earned a spot in the Puerto Rico PGA tournament. Softball opens their season against N.C. Central at Elon College, and Baseball will open at home against Creighton.

### *ATH – 2 Spartan Club Update*

Mackin reviewed the five-year \$5M Scholarship Initiative goal. At about the halfway point, we currently have \$2.9M committed from 63 donors. There are multiple fundraising events planned this Spring, including Baseball's First Pitch dinner in February, Spiro's Ball in April, and the Spartan Club Golf Classic on May at the Grandover Resort.

He also reported that the SoCon Basketball Conference Championships will take place in Asheville March 6-10. The Spartan Club will be hosting pre- and post-game events for fans throughout the weekend.

### *ATH – 3 House vs NCAA Settlement Discussion*

Mackin was joined by General Counsel Jerry Blakemore to update the Committee on the pending House v NCAA litigation settlement which calls for the NCAA to pay \$2.8 billion in back pay to student-athletes who participated from 2016-24 and were not allowed to participate in NIL activities. Those student-athletes had until the end of January to opt in or out of the settlement. The NCAA will fund this payout by withholding revenue distribution to schools over 10 years. The impact to UNCG will be \$290K annually for 10 years. Institutions will have to declare if they will opt in or out of the Settlement by March 1st. "Opting In" means that schools have access to revenue sharing opportunities, scholarship flexibility with roster limits, and overall increased institutional control of student-athlete benefits. It's also a positive for fundraising in that donors will be able to make tax-deductible gifts to NIL/revenue share.

The settlement is already being challenged. There are conflicts between NCAA rules, conference policies, and state law, as well as concerns about Title IX. Additionally, there are significant tax and financial implications for student-athletes and the potential for them being classified as employees. Assuming final court approval on April 7<sup>th</sup>, implementation of the settlement will begin on July 1 of this year.

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.