



**Committee on Athletics Fall 2016 Report**

December 14, 2016

**Committee Membership**

Bhattacharya, Torsha	Jenkins, Amelia (Vice Chair)	Simpson Steele, Jamie
Ericson, David (FAR)	Managlia, Steven	Townsend Ing, Claire
Flynn, David (Chair)	Ng-Osorio, Jacqueline	
Hutchison, Elisabeth Steele	Sipes, Brent (Secretary)	Withy, Kelly (SEC Liaison)

**Fall 2016 Committee Meetings:** October 6, November 3, December 1

**Carryover Issues**

**Issue #15.13 Life of a Student-Athlete**

The 2012 referral from the Senate Executive Committee states: *“Added from input provided in faculty feedback; Honest discussion of the role of academics in student-athletes’ lives.”* Beyond this odd suggestion, there were no specific academic policy matters identified for the committee to investigate. However, as is standard practice, the Committee on Athletics (COA) at the time of referral, and the committees since, reviewed and responded to issues highlighted in our Faculty Athletics Representative’s annual reporting on academic progress. Academic standing of our student-athletes since this referral has been consistently reported as having no marked concerns. Of course, improvements in the nationally reported Graduation Success Rate and Academic Progress Rate remain stated goals. Related issues explored by the committees since referral include: internet accommodations during official university-sponsored travel; faculty supportiveness of student-athletes required to miss classes due to university-sponsored activities; challenges related to particular majors; admissions policies and procedures; and the safety, health, and general well-being of the student-athletes. The academic life of the student-athlete is an open-ended issue for COA, but not because of this 2012 referral. A 2007 Senate resolution requires annual reporting on student-athlete academic performance to COA by the Faculty Athletics Representative. Moreover, the committee’s charge of oversight on “standards for admission, retention, and graduation; the reporting of graduation rates; academic counseling; ethical standards; and ways of supporting and encouraging the academic performances of the student-athletes” is an ongoing discussion. The issue was also referred in 2012 to the Committee on Student Affairs. CSA responded that it lacked a specific charge and was too broad of an investigation on a complicated topic. CSA also noted that other oversight mechanisms are already in place. It is recommended that issue #15-13 be closed. New issues arising within this broader topic should be clearly articulated and addressed separately.

**Issue #19.14 Athletics Strategic Plan**

This 2013 issue was initiated by the Committee on Athletics at the time to conduct its formal review a newly released strategic plan from Ben Jay, former Director of Athletics (AD). This issue should have

been listed as closed at the end of spring 2014. Further, the Athletics Department is now under new leadership with David Matlin assuming the AD post in April 2015. At the December 2016 COA meeting, Matlin updated the committee on his “deep dive” assessment of the UH athletics program and indicated that the 2013 plan is not under revision yet during this transition period. COA will take a final look at the 2013 document and close issue #19.14 early next semester. When the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics issues its new or updated strategic planning document, the COA review process will restart with a new issue number.

### **Issue #23.14 Concussion Management Plan**

In January 2014 the Steering Committee of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) requested COIA member senates to consider learning about campus administrative policies and procedures concerning sports-related concussions and convey some basic information back to COIA in order to “aggregate this information and work with the NCAA to develop better awareness of current and best administrative practices regarding concussions, in order to assist senates wishing to play a constructive role and to facilitate inter-campus communication on this student safety issue.” The Senate Executive Committee referred the issue to COA on January 31, 2014. A subcommittee was tasked with review of the *University of Hawaii Concussion Management Plan* and made several recommendations. A final draft is currently under review with the NCAA. The current COA noted that some of the earlier recommendations were not incorporated into the draft now under NCAA review. A memorandum was delivered December 7, 2016 to the UH Team Physician (copied to the Director of Athletics) strongly urging incorporation of three committee recommendations into the next iteration of the plan.

### **New Business**

Review of a proposal from the OVCAA to initiate a faculty mentor program for student-athletes. Scope, level of formality, locus, mentor role and expectations are unclear at this point.

### **Interviews and Additional Meetings**

November 1: COA Chair and Vice Chair attended a meeting of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). Student-athlete representatives from most teams shared concerns regarding facilities, safety, and academics. It was stated by the coordinator of the meeting that a follow-up meeting with the Assistant Athletics Director for Facilities would be scheduled immediately to address concerns raised.

November 17: Several COA members were provided a detailed tour of the athletics facilities, focusing on the safety and maintenance issues raised by the student-athletes during the November 1 SAAC meeting.

December 1: David Matlin, Director of Athletics, met with COA to update the members on current endeavors and respond to COA questions that were forwarded in advance. Matlin is also scheduled to address the full Senate at the February 2017 meeting.

### **Appointments and Subcommittees**

Vice Chair Amelia Jenkins was recommended for appointment to the Athletics Advisory Board (AAB). Elisabeth Steele Hutchison was selected to represent us at the national Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) meeting. Scheduling prevents Elisabeth from attending; Kelley Withy is recommended as her replacement. Claire Townsend Ing was recommended for appointment to the new campus-level Compliance Committee. Three subcommittees were formed for carryover issues and gender equity.

Respectfully submitted by David Flynn, Chair, Committee on Athletics