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MĀNOA

May 12, 2021

To: Mānoa Faculty Senate Executive Committee

From: Kenneth Lawson, Chair

Re: Committee on Athletics (COA) - Spring Report 2021

The Chair thanks the following committee members and officers for their service: Jerry Agrusa, Vice-Chair; Katherine Finn Davis, Secretary; Kelley Withy, COIA Rep.; Penny-Bee Bovard, SEC Liaison Scott Sinnett, FAR Rep.; and members Stacy Ray, Cory Lenz, and Francie Julien-Chinn.

Committee met on the following dates: January 19, February 9, March 9, April 6, & May 4 of this year. During the Spring 2021 semester, the committee addressed issues related to student mental health and wellness.

Issue(s) Completed:

We committed to understanding and addressing the mental health and wellness challenges facing our student-athletes, especially during a pandemic where social distance can be an obstacle to someone needing care and compassion. We spoke with ASUH President, GSO Vice-President, student-athletes, and the UH Athletics Director to fully understand the scope of the issue. We developed a list of mental health resources that faculty, staff, and coaches can make available to our student-athletes. Further, at the close of the semester, we proposed conducting a study to determine whether our women's and men's athletics teams are treated equitably.

Issue(s) Under Review:

Subject to further review by the 2021-22 incoming members, we recommend providing coaches, faculty, and staff with an updated list of mental health and wellness resources to assist student-athletes who may be struggling with these issues. Challenges remain on how to deliver these resources to students best so that they are aware and take full advantage of them. Additionally, we recommend that the incoming members tour athletic facilities and meet with SAAS Academic Advisors to see where COA may assist with Title IX or gender equity issues, e.g., structuring a meaningful study to analyze equitable issues between our male and female student athletic programs. Finally, COA should continue meeting with student-athletes to better understand the true impact of COVID on their academic and sport performance.



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