

UTK Faculty Senate Athletics Committee

Final Report for AY2015-16

The Athletics Committee had six (6) meetings over the course of AY 2015-2016. The committee met this year's goals in the following ways:

1. *Become acquainted with the academic support services provided by the Thornton Athletics Student Life Center for UT student athletes.*
 - **Joe Scogin**, *Director of the Thornton Athletics Student Life Center*, and **Kayla Smith** *Director of Student-Athlete Development*, discussed the new programs for student athletes administered by the center at our September 28, 2015 meeting. They emphasized programs for student/leadership development and community service.
 - **Jennifer Gramling**, *Director of UT On-line Programs*, discussed on-line academic opportunities and challenges at our February 29, 2016 meeting. Guest for the meeting included **Theresa Lee**, *Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences*, and **Charles Collins**, *Interim Associate Dean for the College of Arts & Sciences*.
 - **Taylor Thomas**, *Student Affairs Coordinator for Athletics*, provided an overview of academic admission for student athletes. **Sarah Beth Clark**, *UT Athletics Compliance Office*, complemented the discussion with admission requirements and rules set forth by the SEC and NCAA. **Brian Russell**, *Director of Academic Support Services, Thornton Athletics Student Life Center*, provided additional information about the role of the center in academic and career counseling for UT's student athletes at our at our March 28, 2016 meeting.
2. *Tour facilities associated with the Thornton Athletics Student Life Center and other facilities within the Athletic Department or REC Sports which provide academic and other support services to UT students and athletes.*
 - **Allison Maurer**, *UT Athletics Sports Nutritionist*, discussed the nutritional program for student athletes at the Anderson Training Center and provided the committee with a tour of the facilities at our October 26, 2015 meeting.
 - **Rex Pringle** (ex officio), *Director of Res Sports*; **Mario Riles**, *Intramurals Sports Coordinator*, and **Jon Janis**, *Sports Clubs and Marketing Coordinator*, gave the committee a tour and provided information about the REC Sports Fields facility at Sutherland Avenue at our April 25, 2016 meeting.
3. *Consult with compliance and administrative personnel within the Athletic Department for information regarding the most recent rulings by the NCAA on autonomy and athlete compensation to determine the potential impacts on UT student athletes.*
 - **Mike Ward**, *Senior Associate Athletics Director for Administration and Sports Programs*, and **Andrew Donovan**, *Associate Athletics Director for Compliance*, gave the committee a status update on the compliance office within the UT Athletics Department and how their office interacts with student athletes at our November 23, 2015 meeting.

4. *Consult with administrative personnel with the Athletic Department and tour facilities on the UTK Campus associated with the newly formed SEC Network to determine the potential impacts on UT student athletes and/or other students that may benefit from the network.*
 - We were unable to meet this goal and hope the committee can reach this goal in future years.
5. *Brief the executive committee and the members of the Faculty Senate on any current issues affecting UT student athletes.*
 - This was done as needed during AY2015-2016.

The chair and committee members wish to thank **Donna Thomas**, *Associate Athletics Director*, and Dr. **Don Bruce**, *Faculty Athletics Representative*, for their help and support in arranging speakers and locations for the committee meetings this year. The committee would like to thank **Andrew Donovan**, *Associate Athletics Director for Compliance*, for participating in committee meetings this year.

The committee also thanks **Ashlee Boles** for taking valuable time out of her busy schedule to serve as our student athlete representative on the committee this year. The committee also thanks **Andrew Adams** for taking valuable time out of his busy schedule to serve as our SGA representative on the committee this year. A special thank you is also extended to all the staff within the Thornton Center and UT Athletics for their support and help this past year.

Final report submitted on
Dean A. Kopsell, *Professor*
Chair – Athletics Committee