

FS Athletics Committee 2-13-2017

Attending: Mike Ward, Jonathan Boling, Andrew Donovan, Joe Scogin, Khalil Bostick (student rep), Chris Magra, Don Bruce, Joe Scogin, Brian Whitlock, Rex Pringle, Dawn Coe, Sally Hunter, Cary Staples

Minutes taken by: Sally B. Hunter, sbhunter@utk.edu

Meeting began at 3:05pm and ended at 4:10pm.

Presentation from Mike Ward & Jonathan Boling = Applied Performance and Sport Science

1. Athletics Department is in the process of expanding their use of technology, with the primary question: How can we track fitness scientifically, to optimize athletes' performance (acknowledging the constraints of the student-athletes' other time demands, the student-athletes' nutritional needs, the unfeasibility of scheduling individual practice times for 60 different athletes on a team, etc.)

- WHOOP = one tool for tracking fitness, currently used by some of the teams.
- Different coaches have different levels of "buy-in" for the fitness tracking tools/technologies.

2. Who uses (or who can use) performance data on the student-athletes?

- Coaching Staff
- Nutrition Staff
- Medical Staff
- Students themselves

3. More questions as the development process continues:

- What software can aggregate this data?
- What things are meaningful and actionable?
 - Coaches' experiences and coaches' eyes, vs. Numbers/data of the sports analytics
- Could coaches *really* utilize this data?
- Could faculty members ever utilize this data?

4. Once the sport science center opens, Athletics will likely reach out to UTK faculty (in departments such as KRSS, Engineering, Analytics) to see if there is faculty interest in partnering with them and conducting performance research with the student-athletes.

Discussion about topics for the next two meetings of FS Athletics Committee:

1. Event management – perhaps change Monday March 27 meeting to Tuesday March 28?
2. Student-athlete mental health & Concussion studies – try to get speakers Chris Klenck & Jason McVeigh, perhaps on Monday April 24?

Discussion about COIA [Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics] and Proposed Revisions to COIA Bylaws:

- Bonnie Ownley (current UT Faculty Senate President) plans to attend the COIA annual meeting this coming weekend (February 17-19, 2017) at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC.
- Athletics Committee was tasked with reviewing the proposed changes to the COIA Bylaws (the COIA organization is in the process of trying to get 2017 revisions to the 2007 bylaws approved by all 63 member schools).

- Today (2/13/2017), our committee started with a discussion about what COIA is and how membership in the COIA is beneficial to the UT Faculty Senate.
- COIA's mission statement (on their website, www.thecoia.org) is "to provide a national faculty voice on intercollegiate sports issues."
- The membership of COIA includes two faculty members (the Senate president, and one other elected or appointed COIA representative) from each of 63 Football Bowl Schools. For reference, the table of COIA member schools has been copy/pasted into these minutes [*note, Formatting did not handle the transition from Excel to Word very well, so the table must be viewed across multiple pages].
- The newly proposed COIA Bylaws seem (to our UT Faculty Senate Athletics Committee) to give an immense amount of power to the COIA steering committee, which will be composed of just nine faculty members, who will not necessarily be representative of all sports conferences. Our committee members were concerned about the potential for these nine members to advance their own agenda, without the full support of all faculty senate members.
- Additionally, concerns were expressed by our committee that only 63 (of the 129 football bowl schools) are members of COIA, so we do not feel that COIA is representative of all faculty voices.

- Regarding the history of the University of Tennessee's relations with COIA, we discussed that the relations between the members of the UT faculty and the staff of UT Athletics have been somewhat strained in the past.
- However, that is NOT the case at the present time. Our committee feels that relations between the faculty and athletics are open and healthy at this time.

- Specifically, the Chancellor has appointed one Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) – currently, our FAR is Professor Don Bruce, dbruce@utk.edu – and the FAR represents the interests of the UT faculty at the UT campus-level, at the SEC conference-level, and at the national level at NCAA. The FAR is asked by the Chancellor to "support a campus environment in which intercollegiate athletics is a vital component of the educational program"- building bridges between athletics and academics. The FAR is also tasked with conducting regular reviews of the academic records of all UT student-athletes, to ensure that they are meeting the eligibility and compliance standards of the NCAA.

- In addition to the institution's Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), the University of Tennessee Faculty Senate has a standing committee – the Faculty Senate Athletics Committee – which provides additional opportunities for faculty to voice their opinions to the Athletics Department. Representatives from the Athletics Department (Joe Scogin, Mike Ward, Andrew Donovan, and others) have been present at every meeting of our Faculty Senate Athletics Committee, as you can see from documented attendees in our previous meeting minutes.
- Further, the Chair of the Faculty Senate Athletics Committee has a voting seat/ full inclusion on the Intercollegiate Athletics Board. This UT campus board meets twice per semester and is attended by Athletics Department Administrators, the UT Chancellor, members of the UT Board of Trustees, the campus Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), and two additional at-large Faculty members (currently Deborah Baldwin-Psychology and Patrick Biddix-Higher Education).

RECOMMENDATION from the Faculty Senate Athletics Committee on 2/13/2017:

Given that there is a limited amount of energy to be expended, the consensus of the FS Athletics Committee was that our time would be most effective in participating in the dialogue with the University of Tennessee Athletics Department, the SEC and the NCAA.

As a committee, we feel strongly that the existing channels for faculty voice on matters relating to athletics and student-athletes are open, and that strong relationships exist between the faculty and the Athletics administrators. At this time, we feel appropriately represented by the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) and our Faculty Senate Athletics Board, with the SEC and the NCAA.

Further, we feel that if faculty wish to express their concerns about matters relating to Athletics at the University of Tennessee, it would be inefficient and inappropriate to go outside the University and up through the channels of COIA (or any other outside organization), when there are direct channels here at UT that are functioning well at this time.

As a committee, due to our concerns about the COIA steering committee and the COIA organization in general, we recommend immediate withdrawal from the COIA organization.

We would encourage any interested Senators to attend our Athletics Committee meetings in person, and also to get to know our FAR, Dr. Don Bruce.

COIA Member Schools, as represented by Conference

Green = COIA member, White = Not a COIA member, Blue = No Faculty Senate

*note: In the SEC conference, as of 2014, there were 10 member schools.

FOOTBALL BOWL SUBDIVISION July 2014					
		<u>COIA MEMBERS</u>	<u>NO FACULTY SENATE</u>		
<u>CONFERENCE, 2013-14</u>	<u>NUMBER SCHOOLS</u>	<u>COIA MEMBERS</u>			
AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE (AAC)	11	8	Central Florida	Cincinnati	Connecticut
ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE (ACC)	14	5	Boston College	Clemson	Duke
BIG TEN CONFERENCE (BIG TEN)	14	10	Illinois	Indiana	Iowa
BIG 12 CONFERENCE (BIG 12)	10	4	Baylor	Iowa State	Kansas
CONFERENCE USA (C-USA)	14	4	Alabama-Birmingham	Florida Atlantic	Florida International
MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE (MAC)	13	4	Akron	Ball State	Bowling Green
MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE (MWC)	12	7	Air Force	Boise State	Colorado State
PACIFIC 12 CONFERENCE (PAC-12)	12	8	Arizona	Arizona State	Cal-Berkeley
SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE (SEC)	14	10	Alabama	Arkansas	Auburn
SUN BELT CONFERENCE (SUN BELT)	11	3	Appalachian State	Arkansas State	Georgia Southern
INDEPENDENTS	4	0	Army	Brigham Young	Navy
TOTALS	129 (124 faculty senates)	63			

Note: In

CONFERENCE, 2013-14					
AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE (AAC)	East Carolina	Houston	Memphis	South Florida	Southern Methodist
ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE (ACC)	Florida State	Georgia Tech	Louisville	Miami (FL)	North Carolina
BIG TEN CONFERENCE (BIG TEN)	Maryland	Michigan	Michigan State	Minnesota	Nebraska
BIG 12 CONFERENCE (BIG 12)	Kansas State	Oklahoma	Oklahoma St.	Texas	Texas Christian
CONFERENCE USA (C-USA)	Louisiana Tech	Marshall	Middle Tennessee	North Carolina Charlotte	North Texas
MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE (MAC)	Buffalo	Central Michigan	Eastern Michigan	Kent State	Massachusetts - Amherst
MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE (MWC)	Fresno State	Hawai'i	Nevada - Reno	Nevada - Las Vegas	New Mexico
PACIFIC 12 CONFERENCE (PAC-12)	Colorado	Oregon	Oregon St.	Southern California	Stanford
SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE (SEC)	Florida	Georgia	Kentucky	Louisiana State	Mississippi
SUN BELT CONFERENCE (SUN BELT)	Georgia State	Idaho	Louisiana-Lafayette	Louisiana-Monroe	New Mexico State
INDEPENDENTS	Notre Dame				
TOTALS					
	Note: Independent Notre Dame plays non-football sports in the ACC.				

CONFERENCE, 2013-14					
AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE (AAC)	Temple	Tulane	Tulsa		
ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE (ACC)	North Carolina State	Pittsburgh	Syracuse	Virginia	Virginia Tech
BIG TEN CONFERENCE (BIG TEN)	Northwestern	Ohio State	Penn State	Purdue	Rutgers
BIG 12 CONFERENCE (BIG 12)	Texas Tech	West Virginia			
CONFERENCE USA (C-USA)	Old Dominion	Rice	Southern Mississippi	Texas - San Antonio	Texas - El Paso
MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE (MAC)	Miami (OH)	Northern Illinois	Ohio	Toledo	Western Michigan
MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE (MWC)	San Diego State	San Jose State	Utah State	Wyoming	
PACIFIC 12 CONFERENCE (PAC-12)	UCLA	Utah	Washington	Washington State	
SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE (SEC)	Mississippi State	Missouri	South Carolina	Tennessee	Texas A&M
SUN BELT CONFERENCE (SUN BELT)	South Alabama	Texas State	Troy		
INDEPENDENTS					
TOTALS					