

**Faculty Board on Athletics
Meeting of Friday, April 12, 2019
12:30-2:00 pm, 303 Main Building**

Member Attendees: Patricia Bellia (Chair), Corey Angst, Ann Firth, Erin Hoffmann Harding, Pat Holmes, Dan Kelly, Mary Ann McDowell, Susan Ohmer, F. Clark Power, Aaron Striegel, Jack Swarbrick, Cameasha Turner, Kevin Vaughn

Member Excused: Jaimie Bleck

Liaisons: Missy Conboy, Senior Deputy Athletics Director; Jody Sadler, Deputy Athletics Director; Angie Torain, Senior Associate Athletics Director

Guests: Hunter Bivin, Director of Player Development, Football; Mario Morris, Deputy Athletics Director; Ron Powlus, Associate Athletics Director, Football; Heidi Uebelhor, Assistant Athletics Director, Compliance

1. Opening Prayer

Professor Patricia Bellia called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm and invited Professor F. Clark Power to give the opening prayer.

2. Minutes of Meeting of March 6, 2019

Professor Bellia invited the Board to consider the minutes of the meeting of March 6, 2019. Mr. Pat Holmes had offered changes to the minutes in question, which Professor Bellia circulated. Present members of the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes, subject to Mr. Holmes' changes.

3. Chair's Announcements

Schedules. Professor Bellia announced that she approved post-season class misses for women's basketball, cheerleading, and hockey as well as a regular season schedule change for men's tennis that added a match without affecting the classes missed.

Captains. Professor Bellia shared that she approved men's soccer captains for the fall 2019 season.

Transfer Services Policy. Professor Bellia reminded the Board of its request that she bring language articulating the presumption of access to sports medicine care once a student-athlete submits his or her notification of transfer. Professor Bellia shared the language, approved in concept at the previous Board meeting. The notification to the student contains the following: "[T]he expectation of retaining access to sports medicine services is intended to allow care for an injury/medical condition sustained while participating as a member of a Notre Dame varsity athletics program."

4. Introduction of Mario Morris, Deputy Athletics Director, Business Operations

Professor Bellia invited Mr. Jack Swarbrick to introduce Mr. Mario Morris, Athletics' newly hired Deputy Athletics Director for Business Operations. Mr. Swarbrick thanked Professor Bellia and briefly sketched Mr. Morris' background.

Mr. Swarbrick commented on the goal of this newly created position, including that the person in this new role would navigate Athletics through a challenging financial future. He shared that there is a desire for whoever occupies this role to have a diverse set of experiences and a strong finance background. Mr. Swarbrick explained that all business operations will now report through Mr. Morris.

Mr. Morris thanked Mr. Swarbrick, Professor Bellia, and the Board. He shared his excitement for taking on this position and how his depth of feeling for the University grew through the search process. Mr. Morris stated that his goal is to make Notre Dame Athletics the very best in the country in its fiscal operations and that he was looking forward to working with the Board.

In response to a question from Professor Bellia about what the Board could do to assist him, Mr. Morris said he is initially trying to learn as much as possible and would appreciate the opportunity to meet with the Board to learn about its expectations.

Professor Susan Ohmer noted that Mr. Morris was heavily involved in elements of campus outside of Athletics at his former institution and asked if he could provide some more details about those interactions, particularly about the Beyond the Game program. Mr. Morris described how the program sought to develop students' identity outside of athletics to give student-athletes a lift for life after leaving college athletics.

Replying to a question from Professor Angst, Mr. Swarbrick answered that this is a new position. Mr. Morris noted some similarities between this position and the one he held at his former institution, especially the opportunity to work with campus partners and the importance of those relationships. In response to a question from Professor Mary Ann McDowell, Mr. Morris clarified that his former position was at University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Mr. Swarbrick made an additional announcement, sharing that Professor Bellia will be leading the ACC FARs as the group's President in 2021-2022. Answering a question from Professor Aaron Striegel, Professor Bellia explained the role and its opportunities.

5. Football-Related Matters

Professor Bellia introduced Mr. Ron Powlus, Associate Athletics Director, Football, to discuss two items: the Mid-Year Enrollee Experience and a class miss request in conjunction with the team's Labor Day game versus Louisville.

Mid-Year Enrollee Experience. Professor Bellia discussed the collaboration among various departments to ensure that mid-year enrollees receive adequate support for their transition to Notre Dame. The football program has created a specific program for its mid-year enrollees, with the goal of providing the right support to each person so that he can thrive. Professor Bellia invited Mr. Powlus to provide more information about the program.

Mr. Powlus thanked Professor Bellia for the invitation to present on this topic. He provided a brief background of how the program evolved into its current state, including highlighting some of the challenges faced by mid-year enrollees. Mr. Powlus shared that a primary driving factor for the enhanced program is the desire to fully integrate student-athletes into the broader campus community so that they engage with the wide range of experiences available to them as a student. The January Welcome Weekend plays an important part in this. Mr. Powlus explained the evolution of the program and its materials, including how the materials grew from bits of information compiled ad hoc into the more robust program presented to the Board today.

Mr. Powlus highlighted major points within the materials and then introduced Hunter Bivin, Director of Player Development, who now coordinates this program on football's behalf. Mr. Bivin discussed some of his contributions to the Mid-Year Enrollee program, identifying some elements he added to make it easier for incoming student-athletes to understand and connect with the information.

In response to a question from Professor McDowell, Ms. Uebelhor replied that Compliance meets with all mid-year incoming student-athletes at several points throughout the Mid-Year Enrollee Welcome Weekend and the beginning of the semester, and that the training is rather extensive. Answering a question from Professor Dan Kelly, Mr. Powlus stated that all mid-year enrollees meet with Academic Services for Student-Athletes (ASSA) staff, noting that the relationship between ASSA staff and the student-athlete begins during the recruiting process, and that there is time built into the Mid-Year Enrollee Welcome Weekend programming for ASSA. Mr. Powlus expanded on his response, sharing that any time recruits come to campus, they meet with ASSA staff.

Professor Power lauded the letter on the inside front cover and, in particular, its line about joining a "family." He asked how most mid-year enrollees handle the transition. Mr. Bivin replied that the football program has a great culture, one that emphasizes bringing the new student-athletes into the group. Mr. Powlus added that it can be a struggle, for some more than others, just as it can be for any incoming freshman. He remarked on some of the more unique challenges incoming mid-year enrollees may face. Ms. Missy Conboy shared her experience as the volleyball sport administrator witnessing the difficulty some mid-year enrollees have in making friends, as they are off-cycle and many of those who enrolled in the fall have already established friend groups. She wondered if there might be a possibility to provide mid-year enrollees some additional strategies surrounding this issue. Professor McDowell asked if there was something being done about this at the dorm level, to which Ms. Erin Hoffmann Harding replied that Student Affairs hopes to increase the interaction between the entire mid-year enrollee cohort. In response to a question from Ms. Ann Firth, Ms. Hoffmann Harding replied that there are students other than student-athletes who enter as mid-years. Professor Bellia commented that

most student-athletes who enroll as mid-years are typically graduating from high school in 3.5 years, whereas many non-student-athletes who enroll as mid-years have spent four years in high school and have had a post-high-school experience.

Class Miss Request. Professor Bellia introduced a class miss request from football, noting that while this request falls within her discretion to grant, she preferred to seek the full Board's views because of the unusual circumstances surrounding the request.

Mr. Powlus provided context surrounding the contractual agreement with the ACC that requires Notre Dame to play some games on days other than Saturday; in this case, the team will be playing on a Monday night (Labor Day) and is requesting a class miss for the following Tuesday, due to the team's anticipated arrival back on campus at 4:00 am and the need for student-athletes to rest and recover.

Mr. Powlus commented on the importance of rest and recovery to the student-athletes' health and overall well-being, offering numerous examples of the football program's commitment to assisting student-athletes recover. Mr. Powlus emphasized the total number of class misses expected for the season and how the team would be within the Board's limits. He shared that ASSA is supportive of this request.

Professor McDowell asked if student-athletes could still attend class on Tuesday should they want to if they were officially excused, to which Professor Bellia replied in the affirmative. Mr. Powlus clarified that this class miss would only apply to the student-athletes who traveled, not to anyone else.

Responding to a question from Professor Ohmer about the application of class miss to other affected students, like band members, Ms. Hoffmann Harding explained that the band usually does one road trip a year and it is typically a bus trip, but that if students need to miss class, their absence is officially excused under the Academic Code. Professor Bellia described a similar situation in 2016, in which case the team returned very early on the Monday morning of Labor Day after playing in Texas. The team was afforded a half-day class miss for that Monday. In response to a question from Professor McDowell, Ms. Erin Hoffmann Harding and Professor Bellia confirmed that members of the band received a class miss for the women's basketball team's Final Four games.

Answering a question from Professor Angst, Mr. Powlus noted the football staff's awareness that this class miss would occur during the second week of school. The timing relative to add/drop was a point of conversation with ASSA staff. Mr. Powlus confirmed that ASSA staff remains supportive of the request and would be intentional about ensuring that any add/drop decisions are made prior to the weekend before the Monday game.

Professor Bellia thanked Mr. Powlus for his presentation and excused him.

In response to a question from Professor Ohmer, Mr. Swarbrick commented that Athletics is aware of the football schedule into the late 2020's and shared that Notre Dame is projected to have one Monday and two Thursday or Friday games. Replying to a question from

Professor Power about the apparent increased pressure on class attendance, Mr. Swarbrick noted the general approach the ACC takes to scheduling and the likely magnitude of that impact compared to the impact of the advent of the ACC Network. He shared Notre Dame's approach to these conversations within the league, arguing for less class miss, to play more double headers, etc., but noted the general indifference of other institutions to these arguments. Mr. Swarbrick acknowledged that the ACC Network will have an impact, but that rational scheduling as a base matter would lead to a significant improvement.

Further discussion ensued, concluding with a vote on football's request; the Board voted to approve the request, with none in opposition and one abstention.

6. Volleyball Class Miss Request

Professor Bellia introduced Mr. Mike Johnson, volleyball head coach. Mr. Johnson explained the team's typical schedule and resulting class misses, emphasizing that the team requests to travel for ACC conference matches during Fall Break and Thanksgiving in an attempt to minimize class misses. Mr. Johnson explained, however, that the ACC ignored Notre Dame's requests for the 2019 season and created a schedule that would require the volleyball team to have five Monday-Wednesday-Friday (MWF) class misses for ACC matches alone. Mr. Johnson described the efforts of the program to mitigate this issue by re-working its non-conference schedule, but the team was still left with six total MWF class misses. Mr. Johnson explained the difficulties surrounding getting a conference game moved and his lack of success in doing so. Mr. Johnson also reminded the Board that the ACC does not have an ACC conference volleyball tournament and that, due to the timing of the NCAA tournament, the team would, at most, miss only one more MWF class day for post-season competition.

Professor Angst asked how other ACC schools handle this issue. Professor Bellia described their more cavalier attitude toward class misses.

Professor Bellia thanked Mr. Johnson for his presentation and excused him.

Mr. Swarbrick shared Athletics' frustration with the ACC's scheduling practices for this year's volleyball schedule. In response to a question from Professor Angst, Mr. Swarbrick stated that he does not believe refusing to play the matches as scheduled is a valid alternative due to wide-ranging impact of that decision. Replying to a question from Professor McDowell, Professor Bellia shared discussions about developing a more intentional approach, perhaps through Father Jenkins, who is aware of this issue.

Answering a question from Professor Kevin Vaughn, Professor Bellia confirmed that almost all of the student-athletes need to travel to every game. Professor Bellia also shared some additional details regarding how the pre-season tournaments and other matches the volleyball team would like to take part in combine to create this situation.

Ms. Hoffmann Harding asked how the Board could help Professor Bellia, Mr. Swarbrick, and Father Jenkins in their discussions on this topic. Professor Bellia stated that that the Board's

clear frustration and concern as expressed during the meeting provides an important point of escalation for these conversations.

Mr. Swarbrick shared some additional thoughts on things that may help to minimize the impact of these scheduling choices, through a potential software solution and broader legislative reform. Replying to a question from Professor Striegel, Ms. Conboy explained that because of the differences in scheduling philosophy between conferences and the swings in RPI of teams on an annual basis, it's difficult to schedule much earlier than teams currently schedule.

The Board voted to approve the request, with none in opposition and one abstention.

7. Kanaley Award Nominations

Professor Kelly, Chair of the Academic Integrity Subcommittee (Subcommittee), briefly discussed the Kanaley Award Nominations received by the Board, noting that there were nine nominees, six of which the Subcommittee unanimously recommended. The Board voted unanimously to accept the Subcommittee's recommendation, approving six student-athletes as winners of the 2018-19 Kanaley Award: Emma Albrecht, Hugh Crance, Eric Gilgenbach, Kelly Hart, Axel Kiefer, and Drue Tranquill.

8. Adjournment

Professor Bellia adjourned the meeting shortly after 2:00 pm.