

**Faculty Board on Athletics
Meeting of September 23, 2022
500 Main Building—12:30pm-2:00pm**

Members Present: Patricia Bellia (Chair), Alex Blachly, Malcolm Chaka, Darren Davis, Ann Firth, Patrick Holmes, Jeff Kantor, Tracy Kijewski-Correa, Randy Kozel, Mary Ann McDowell, Cara Ocobock, Rev. Gerard Olinger, C.S.C, Jack Swarbrick

Members Excused: Corey Angst, Kevin Vaughan

Athletics Liaisons: Missy Conboy, Jessica Kerr, Heidi Uebelhor

1. Opening Prayer

Professor Patricia Bellia called the meeting to order at 12:34 pm and offered the opening prayer.

2. Minutes of Meeting of May 3, 2022

With no changes to the Minutes of the Meeting of May 3, 2022 (Minutes), Professor Mary Ann McDowell moved to approve the Minutes; Father Gerry Olinger seconded the motion. All present and voting members voted to approve the Minutes.

3. Chair's Announcements

Initial Schedule Approvals. Professor Bellia informed the Board of the schedules she approved on its behalf: fall schedules for baseball, cheerleading, cross-country, football, men's and women's golf, women's lacrosse, rowing, men's and women's soccer, softball, and volleyball; full season schedules for men's and women's basketball (non-conference followed by conference), and men's and women's tennis; and a spring schedule for men's golf.

Schedule Changes. Professor Bellia informed the Board that she had, in accordance with authority delegated by the Board and on its behalf, approved a number of requests for schedule changes. Women's soccer requested two changes. The first change was needed to address bus driver rest requirements and resulted in a half-day miss for one student. The other related to an airline mechanical failure and resulted in a missed class day for traveling students. Men's soccer requested three changes. The first change was due to rescheduling of a weather-related cancellation and resulted in a missed class day. The second request was due to a schedule shift resulting from the weather-related change and did not result in a missed class day. The third request was to add a make-up competition to be played at home, which resulted in an evening class miss for two students.

Captaincy Approvals. Professor Bellia announced that she approved captains for the following sports: rowing, men's basketball, football, men's soccer, men's golf, and ice hockey.

Annual Report. Professor Bellia noted that she included the Board's Annual Report in this meeting's materials.

4. Changes in the Intercollegiate Athletics Landscape

Professor Bellia invited Jack Swarbrick to update the Board on changes within the intercollegiate athletics landscape. Mr. Swarbrick spoke to a number of key industry drivers including, among others, third-party influencers like the media, legislators, and the courts. Mr. Swarbrick also spoke to the impact of continuing litigation involving the employment status of student-athletes, NIL, media rights deals, and conference realignment. He noted that the University will face challenges in terms of how best to address continuing changes at the institutional level and that, while all schools will be subject to the same rules, it will be important for Notre Dame to identify its own path.

5. Proposed Changes to Student-Athlete Drug Testing Policy

Ann Firth provided the Board with an overview of proposed changes to the University's student-athlete drug testing policy. Suggested revisions include adopting a more holistic approach designed to put increased focus on student-athlete support and well-being, and restructuring the penalties for cannabis use accordingly. Ms. Firth shared a brief summary of standard testing procedures, and details about the review work performed by the drug testing oversight and policy review committees, which began in response to internal administrative inquiries around the structure and punitive nature of the policy and potential impact that it may be having on Black student-athletes. Ms. Firth also noted that the timing of the recent policy work and proposed revisions coincides with the NCAA's recent policy revisions, which increased positive THC test thresholds to align them with those used by the World Anti-Doping Agency. Ms. Firth solicited feedback about the proposed changes from members of the Board. The Board identified several areas of inquiry, including: how the athletics testing and penalty structure compares to that used with the rest of student body, the independence/interdependence of the two programs, the vastly different approach the University takes to alcohol use versus drug use, and inconsistencies between University and NCAA positive test thresholds. Ms. Firth shared that she will be reviewing the Board's feedback with Father Jenkins and the working committees.

6. Subcommittee and Liaison Assignments

Professor Bellia shared that she would like to see the Board reinvigorate the Faculty Board/Athletics Department liaison program and circulated proposed liaison assignments to the group. Professor Bellia also circulated subcommittee assignments and noted the plan to identify and approve subcommittee chairs prior to the next Board meeting.

7. Adjournment

Professor Bellia adjourned the meeting at 1:58 pm.