

**Faculty Board on Athletics  
Meeting of March 23, 2022  
Eck Hall of Law 3108—1:30pm - 3:00pm**

**Members Present:** Patricia Bellia (Chair), Corey Angst, Alex Blachly, Jaimie Bleck, Malcolm Chaka, Rev. Gerard Olinger, C.S.C., Patrick Holmes, Jeff Kantor, Tracy Kijewski-Correa, Randy Kozel, Mary Ann McDowell, Susan Ohmer, Richard Pierce, Jack Swarbrick, Kevin Vaughan

**Members Excused:** Ann Firth

**Athletics Liaisons:** Missy Conboy

**Guests:** Brian Coughlin, Associate Vice President; Heather Ryan, Director; Heidi Uebelhor, Associate Athletics Director; Claire Leatherwood Slebonick, Associate Athletics Director and Recorder

**1. Opening Prayer**

Professor Patricia Bellia called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm and offered the opening prayer.

**2. Minutes of Meeting of February 23, 2022**

Professor Susan Ohmer moved to approve the Minutes of the meeting of February 23, 2022 (Minutes) and Professor Jaime Bleck seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the Minutes.

**3. Chair's Announcements**

*Schedule Approvals.* Professor Bellia shared that the proposed outdoor track and field schedule is in the same category as the hockey, baseball, and rowing schedules, and reminded the Board that it previously voted to allow those teams to have a regular season competition during exams due to the alteration of the academic calendar. Professor Bellia explained that an approval of the outdoor track and field schedule would put the program in the same posture as the other three referenced sports. As no members voiced any concerns, the Board approved the schedule.

Professor Bellia announced that she approved spring schedules for men's soccer, and women's soccer and revised schedules for men's and women's tennis. She also approved post-season schedules for men's and women's basketball, fencing, and hockey.

*Captaincy Approvals.* Professor Bellia announced that she approved captaincies for men's tennis and men's lacrosse.

*Miscellaneous.* Professor Bellia invited Mr. Swarbrick to share some comments regarding the men's and women's basketball teams' support of Ukraine during the NCAA Championship basketball tournaments.

#### **4. Academic Reports**

Professor Bellia invited Mr. Pat Holmes to present the 2021 NCAA graduation rate report.

Mr. Holmes began by defining the key measurements, the Federal Graduation Rate (FGR) and the NCAA Graduation Success Rate (GSR). Mr. Holmes highlighted the primary points of contrast between the FGR and the GSR, noting that the FGR tracks grant-in-aid (GIA) student-athletes who initially enroll in the institution as freshmen in a fall semester. Mr. Holmes explained that the federal rate is the only metric that allows a direct comparison between student-athletes and all students, but it does not account for student-athletes who transfer into an institution or enroll in January. He described the key features of the GSR, stating that the NCAA initiated the measure in 2005 as a means to capture transfers and chart academic performance while enrolled at an institution.

Mr. Holmes shared that the cohort in this year's report would have entered in the Fall of 2014. He described the demographic breakdown and discussed relevant trends. He compared the most recent GSR numbers to past figures and noted that this cohort's 97% rate marks Notre Dame's first time below 98% since the NCAA began tracking the measure. Mr. Holmes shared that he expects the next several cohorts to come in at the 97% level. He shared a breakdown of the teams and explained that the University ranks second among all FBS schools.

In response to a question from Professor Corey Angst, Mr. Holmes provided additional context around some of the numbers and explained how summer school attendance can impact the University's GSR. Professor Bellia shared some additional details around individual data points.

In reply to a question from Professor Ohmer about differences in the GSR among race and ethnic groups, Mr. Holmes shared additional context on the numbers and compared the student-athlete rates to the University's non-student-athlete rates. Professor Bellia provided additional details on the University's on-going evaluation efforts to support students enrolling from various backgrounds as well as the partnership between Athletics and Student Affairs to address related issues. Fr. Olinger offered insights into additional measures currently underway. Mr. Swarbrick commented on the impact that one student-athlete can have on the GSR due to limited sample sizes. He discussed the potential effects of head coach transitions on transfers which, in turn, can affect the GSR and FGR. The Board, led by comments from Professor Jeff Kantor, discussed various methods by which to evaluate statistics and explore underlying factors such as those at play in the GSR and FGR. Mr. Swarbrick thanked the Board for the discussion.

Mr. Holmes discussed the impact of the transfer portal on both the GSR and FGR in more detail and explained various features of the report in response to questions from Professors Kijewski-Correa and Angst.

## **5. Disciplinary Report**

Professor Bellia invited Brian Coughlin, Associate Vice President, and Heather Ryan, Director, to present the Student-Athlete Disciplinary Report and reminded the Board that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this report was last presented two years ago.

Mr. Coughlin discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and related University rules on the metrics of this report. He provided context around various approaches to student discipline and the disciplinary process over the last several semesters. He explained features of the report and delineated between violations related to COVID-19 and those that were not related to COVID-19. Ms. Ryan shared additional insight on elements of the demographic breakdown of the statistics.

In response to a comment from Professor Angst, Mr. Coughlin provided more information around trends in the data and noted which teams had higher rates of issues. In answer to a question from Professor Kijewski-Correa, Mr. Coughlin explained how the University attempted to adjust to meet the needs of its students.

In reply to a question from Professor Kantor, Ms. Ryan discussed how the University's students compare to those enrolled at other institutions. In answer to a question from Professor Kijewski-Correa, Mr. Coughlin shared his opinion of the overall success of the students' efforts to do their part to keep the University open during the pandemic.

In answer to a question from Professor Bellia, Mr. Coughlin described trends in alcohol and street drug use. Fr. Olinger discussed the availability of alternative social activities and the potential impact on student behavior. Ms. Ryan discussed edible marijuana use among students. Mr. Coughlin provided information around marijuana and Adderall use among the student population.

In reply to a question from Professor Mary Ann McDowell about alcohol use and mental health, Ms. Ryan shared relevant anecdotes from student interactions. Fr. Olinger discussed the utilization rate of the University Counseling Center (UCC) and an expansion of its resources. Mr. Coughlin explained how information learned during the disciplinary process informs how students are connected with mental health and substance abuse services.

In response to a comment from Professor Kijewski-Correa, Fr. Olinger and Mr. Coughlin discussed proactive efforts to provide resources to students. Mr. Coughlin addressed a concern expressed by Professor Kantor and encouraged anyone who sees signs of a student in distress to contact Student Affairs. Fr. Olinger, in reply to a question from Professor Kijewski-Correa, shared more information about on-going analyses of mental health incidence rates among student populations.

## **6. Byron V. Kanaley Award**

Professor Angst, Chair of the Academic Integrity Subcommittee (Subcommittee), introduced the slate of recommended recipients of the Byron V. Kanaley Award (Award) for the

2021-22 academic year: John Michael Bertrand, Bridget Deehan, Camryn Dyke, Taichi Kho, Philip Quinton, Graham Slaggert, Kelly Straub, and Rachel Tanczos. Professor Angst reminded the Board of the Award criteria and described the Subcommittee's evaluation process. He shared that there were eleven nominees and that the Subcommittee is recommending eight receive the award. Professor Angst discussed the nominations of the eight whom the Subcommittee recommended in more detail.

In response to a question from Professor Ohmer, Professor Angst provided more information around why the Subcommittee supported the proposed slate of award winners. Professor Bellia noted that this year's group of nominees was strong and shared some challenges with the level of investment in the nomination process exhibited by some of the coaching staffs.

Professor Angst moved that the entire slate of eight nominees recommended by the Subcommittee be approved for receipt of the 2021-22 Byron V. Kanaley Award, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **7. Adjournment**

Professor Bellia adjourned the meeting at 2:59 pm.