

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Faculty Board on Athletics**  
**October 2, 2023**  
**3108 Eck Hall of Law, 2:00-3:30 pm**

**Members Present:** Patricia Bellia (Chair), Colin Barr, Jaimie Bleck, Brian Coughlin (for Rev. Gerry Olinger, C.S.C.), Darren Davis, Ann Firth, Umesh Garg, Patrick Holmes, Randy Kozel, Mark McCready, Cara Ocobock, Jack Swarbrick, Jamal Wilson, Katie Wowak

**Members Excused:** Annie Coleman

**Athletics Liaisons:** Missy Conboy (SWA), Heidi Uebelhor (Athletics Compliance), Jen Vining-Smith (GLD Center)

**Guests:** Nick Mainieri (Student-Athlete Transition Program Director, Academic Services for Student-Athletes), John Wagle (Pat and Jana Eilers Associate Athletics Director, Sports Performance), Gabby Whitton (Athletics Compliance)

**1. Opening Prayer**

Professor Patricia Bellia called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm and offered the opening prayer.

**2. Summer Bridge Program Annual Report**

Professor Bellia introduced Mr. Nick Mainieri, Student-Athlete Transition Program Director, and invited him to present an overview of the 2023 Summer Bridge Program. Mr. Mainieri shared information and responded to questions from Board members about program objectives, curricular design, and participation eligibility, demographics, and influences. Mr. Mainieri explained that discussions with campus partners are ongoing about possibly shortening the duration of summer 2024 classes and programming from six to five weeks. That change would ensure that the program is available to students with late high school graduation dates and would provide students with a break before student-athletes return for fall training. He also noted plans to evaluate data on the effectiveness of the program, shared information on ongoing collaborations with the Transitional Leaders Program (which also brings a cohort of students to campus in the summer before the first year), and explored strategies for increasing awareness of the value of the program and participation of student-athletes from women's teams.

**3. Sports Performance Update**

Professor Bellia introduced Mr. John Wagle, the Pat and Jana Eilers Associate Athletics Director for Sports Performance, and invited him to update the Board on the initiatives and priorities of the Athletics Department's Sports Performance team. Mr. Wagle spoke to the important information loop involving both data and practice, sharing examples of how Sports Performance uses science and evidence to inform student-athlete activity decisions and also leverages real time activity feedback to continuously shape the collection and evaluation of data.

He emphasized the value of the relationship between the Athletics and the academy and shared specific examples of how each is helping the other expand potential and performance. Finally, Mr. Wagle described a new student-athlete sleep study initiative and answered questions from the Board about predictive modeling and research collaborations involving Athletics and the broader campus population.

#### **4. ACC Scheduling Review Update**

Professor Bellia invited Ms. Missy Conboy, Senior Deputy Athletics Director and Senior Woman Administrator, to update the Board about how ACC leadership is approaching certain scheduling challenges resulting from the recent conference expansion decision. Ms. Conboy described the need to carefully consider and balance a number of relevant factors including, among others, the importance of strong RPI schedules for purposes of maximizing championship opportunities, budgets, equity and student-athlete welfare. Ms. Conboy shared that conference senior woman administrators were in the process of collecting and consolidating feedback from coaches, faculty athletics representatives, and student-athletes, and that they planned to make recommendations to conference directors of athletics in a matter of weeks.

#### **5. Chair's Announcements**

Due to time constraints, the Board deferred review of all Chair announcements until the next meeting.

#### **6. Minutes of Meeting of September 6, 2023**

With no changes, Professor Umesh Garg moved to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of September 6, 2023. Professor Colin Barr seconded the motion. All present and voting members voted to approve.

#### **7. Adjournment**

Professor Bellia adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.