

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Faculty Board on Athletics
December 1, 2023
500 Main Building, 1:00-2:30 pm**

Members Present: Patricia Bellia (Chair), Colin Barr, Annie Coleman, Ann Firth, Patrick Holmes, Randy Kozel, Mark McCready, Rev. Gerry Olinger, C.S.C., Jack Swarbrick, Jamal Wilson, Katie Wowak

Members Excused: Jaimie Bleck, Darren Davis, Umesh Garg, Cara Ocobock

Athletics Liaisons: Heidi Uebelhor (Athletics Compliance), Gabby Whitton (Athletics Compliance)

Guests: Pete Bevacqua (Special Assistant to the President for Athletics), Brian Coughlin (Associate Vice President, Division of Student Affairs), Heather Ryan (Director, Office of Community Standards, Division of Student Affairs), Jessica Kerr (Executive Associate Athletics Director, Risk Management, Policy, and Strategic Projects)

1. Opening Prayer

Professor Bellia called the meeting to order and offered the opening prayer.

2. Minutes of Meeting October 27, 2023

The Board approved the minutes of the meeting of October 30, 2023.

3. Chair's Announcements

Professor Bellia announced the following schedule approvals since the meeting:

- Regular Season: Indoor Track, Men's Golf, Women's Golf, Baseball
- Post Season: Women's Soccer, Men's Soccer (Additionally, if Men's Soccer advances to the College Cup, the semi-finals would require travel and competition on Study Days; if the team advances to the championship game, it would also require the rescheduling of exams.)
- Individual Performance: JD Bertrand, Xavier Watts, Joe Alt approved to attend national award ceremonies.

4. Student-Athlete Disciplinary Report (Brian Coughlin & Heather Ryan)

Mr. Coughlin distributed the 2022-2023 Community Standards Disciplinary Report and cited broad comparisons between student-athletes (SAs) and the general student population. Ms. Ryan noted that the report does not include information regarding Academic Honor Code or Title IX cases. She shared historical data (2018-19 through 2022-23 academic years), highlighted

variations in the report attributable to policies in place in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and explained the different conduct settings included in the report.

Ms. Ryan indicated that there was an overall decrease in reporting generally (for all students and SAs) and shared data relative to class year, college, and sport. Ms. Ryan also noted an increase in on-campus occurrences since the University lifted pandemic-related restrictions on gathering in groups on campus.

Mr. Coughlin and Ms. Ryan responded to questions from committee members. Ms. Ryan shared that, for all students, the issues of greatest concern include substance abuse/misuse, experimentation with cannabis, and interpersonal conflict. Mr. Coughlin noted that the frequency of substance abuse is not as significant an area of concern as is the magnitude of overuse within a short period of time. Father Olinger shared that the Division of Student Affairs is engaged in a broader effort concerning promotion healthy relationships, and that alcohol use is part of that larger conversation.

Members also discussed communication, sanctions, and resources, and the respective roles of Athletics staff, the University Counseling Center, and Sports Psychology staff when a SA was involved in disciplined conduct.

5. Drug Testing Oversight Committee Report (Ann Firth & Jessica Kerr)

Ms. Firth identified the members of the Drug Testing Oversight Committee, shared the history of the Student-Athlete Drug Testing Program and Policy, outlined the logistical process for testing and changes to the consequences for positive outcomes, and shared the reasons for continuing to test SAs.

Ms. Firth described the evolution related to the legalization of cannabis, reviewed drug tests conducted in 2022-23, and noted the expansion of pre-participation testing. Ms. Firth additionally reviewed educational programming. Ms. Kerr provided an update on the NCAA approach to drug testing (less punitive, more focused on education and mental health). She shared that the NCAA is considering a recommendation to remove cannabis from testing.

6. Academic Integrity Subcommittee Report

Professor Bellia introduced Professor Kozel as Chair of the Academic Integrity Subcommittee. Professor Kozel shared that the subcommittee had met to discuss several specific cases involving asking the deans to reschedule final exams for SAs participating in national individual competition. The subcommittee discussed consequences and context related to each case. Professor Kozel and Pat Holmes shared the coach and administrative support for the five SAs (4 freshmen, 1 sophomore - 2 fencers, 3 hockey).

Professor Kozel moved for approval of the request that the deans reschedule the exams. Professor Barr seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Professor Bellia indicated that the matter would go forward to the affected deans, who typically defer to the Board's recommendations.

7. Athletics Director Reports

Both Mr. Swarbrick and Mr. Bevacqua provided updates in the following areas:

- Mr. Swarbrick discussed the recent SAAC agenda, and shared concerns of SAs tied to Career Services, study space in the Joyce, facility planning, and scooters.
- Mr. Bevacqua outlined the terms of the recent NBC deal, including: contract terms, increased monetary impact, the exclusive game on Peacock, a football docuseries on Peacock, a dedicated Notre Dame Peacock channel, continuation of the “What Would You Fight For?” pieces, Peacock discounts for faculty, staff, and students, the push for broadcasts of additional sports, and internships for SAs with NBC.

8. Adjournment

Professor Bellia adjourned the meeting at 2:30PM.