



DUKE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
210 SCIENCE DRIVE • BOX 90360
DURHAM, NC 27708-0360
(919) 613-7057 • FACSIMILE (919) 613-7262

JAMES E. COLEMAN, JR.
JOHN S. BRADWAY PROFESSOR OF THE PRACTICE OF LAW
CO-DIRECTOR OF THE DUKE WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS CLINIC

April 13, 2017

To: Nan Jokerst, Chair
Academic Council

Re: Report of the Athletic Council's activities for 2016-17

The Council undertook a comprehensive review of the Athletic Department's (the "Department") academic support program this academic year; the executive summary of the review is set out below. The Executive Committee of the Council met with the President and Provost in the fall of 2016. The full Council met in the fall of 2016 and again in the spring of 2017. The Academic Committee of the Council met in March of this year.

The Executive Committee of the Council had its annual meeting with the President and Provost on October 31, 2017, to discuss possible topics for the Council's 2016-17 agenda. The Council informed the President and Provost that it intended to conduct a comprehensive review of the academic support program; the review would include interviews of administrators of the program, other staff, coaches, and students, in addition to examination of relevant data. The Council intended to conduct the review internally; the Chair of the Council appointed a task force for that purpose, chaired by Linda Franzoni. The Executive Committee, President, and Provost discussed other issues of interest, including the new paradigm in intercollegiate athletics brought about by the realignment of the power conferences within the NCAA. Dean Arlie Petters asked and we discussed whether Duke had thought about creating pathways within Athletics to prepare student-athletes for life after Duke. The Department identified its in-depth leadership program as one means by which it attempts to do this.

The Council had its fall meeting on December 2, 2016. Dean Guttentag described the admissions process for recruited athletes, including the timeline for reviewing application materials, and admissions staff conversations with coaches. He reiterated that the admissions office makes all admissions decisions, including those involving recruited athletes. He reviewed some key statistics on admitted student-athletes, by sport, gender, revenue/non-revenue sports, and race. The Council also discussed compliance with Title IX during the admissions process. Following up on the Executive Committee's discussion of the new paradigm in intercollegiate athletics brought about by the realignment of the power conferences, we heard from a student panel that discussed the impact of recent reforms on their lives as student-athletes and what more Duke might do to help them take advantage of what Duke has to offer. The panelists were Madison Granger (cross country/track), a fifth year graduate student and Duke's autonomy representative in the NCAA; Chris Taylor (football), the ACC autonomy representative; and Jordan Tucker (volleyball), the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee president. In their

conclusion, the panelists expressed the hope that administrators, faculty, and students can find ways to obtain a better understanding of what it means to be a student-athlete at Duke, including the unique athletic and academic challenges student-athletes face. The panel discussion was excellent.

The Academic Committee of the Council (faculty members, academic deans, and Faculty Athletic Representative) met on March 21, 2017, to discuss the academic performance of student athletes. Arlie Petters made a comprehensive presentation on the academic performance of all student athletes, broken down in various ways. He also discussed systems and practices in place since 2008 to monitor the academic progress of student athletes during the academic year, including a revised early warning system to identify students who are having academic difficulties. These systems and practices have had a significant positive impact of student-athlete performance. The Committee had a probing discussion of Dean Petters' presentations. There are no issues of significant concern.

Finally, the full Council met on April 13, 2017. The Department made several presentations, including an update on Title IX, the success of the Department's fundraising campaign, and an overview of the Athletic Department's 2017-18 financial report. Linda Franzoni presented a summary of her task force's review of the academic services unit of the Department. Following is the executive summary of her report. The Council will send the full report to the President, Provost, and Director of Athletics by the end of April.

Review of Academic Support Services for Student-Athletes: Executive Summary

In fall 2016, a task force consisting of faculty members of the Duke University Athletics Council was charged with reviewing the academic support services unit of the Duke University Athletics Department. From October 2016 through March 2017, the task force reviewed survey data, conducted interviews with senior leadership within athletics, coaches, student-athletes, and the academic support services staff.

Overall, the task force was extremely impressed with the quality of academic support provided by Athletics for student-athletes and the diligence of the staff in the academic support services unit. The staff members who serve in the role of academic coordinator are extremely dedicated, hardworking, and professional. The frequency and quality of communication between academic coordinators and coaches were consistently praised; and it is obvious from our interviews that there is a high level of mutual respect between coaches and academic coordinators. In many cases, coaches view the academic coordinator as a member of the coaching staff. Academic coordinators will sometimes attend practices, see students in the training room, go to games and matches, and even travel with a team to competitions on occasion. Similarly, the quality of the professional relationship between academic coordinator and student-athlete is commendable. Clearly, the student-athletes have high regard for the academic coordinators and the academic coordinators have a deep appreciation and understanding of the academic and athletic demands that are placed on Duke's student-athletes. In addition, the professional communication and collaboration between the Sr. Associate Athletics Director for Student Services and the Admission's Office, Provost's Office, academic deans, and other support units on campus is excellent, and essential to the overall success and credibility of the program.

One area of academic support services for student-athletes that was identified as an improvement opportunity was in the realm of tutoring, where space and tutor-preparation are needed. Students reported that the quality of the tutoring sessions was uneven and that dedicated space for tutoring was insufficient. This information was confirmed by survey data as well as personal interviews with student-athletes. Student-athletes also told us that tutoring was essential to their academic success.

Specific recommendations of the task force include:

- transitioning end-of-season evaluation surveys from paper to electronic means
- initiating a student-athlete alumni survey and conducting it on a periodic basis
- identifying additional dedicated tutoring space (with appropriate oversight) for holding tutoring hours for student-athletes; during training of tutors, emphasizing the importance of preparation prior to the tutoring session; screening TAs for academic integrity violations prior to hiring
- expanding the number of academic coordinators to accommodate the growing number of athletes
- encouraging student-athletes to take advantage of campus-wide resources for academic and career advising, in addition to that which is provided by athletics
- establishing a regular schedule for the review of the academic support services unit
- ensuring that the reporting structure for this unit within Athletics reports to the Provost's Office (solid-line, not dotted line)

James E. Coleman, Jr.
Chair, for the Athletic Council

cc: President Brodhead
Kevin White
Martha Putallaz