

UAAC Committee make-up

Elected Committee Members

P. Brandon Bookstaver (Pharmacy) – 2018
 Bethany Bell (Social Work) – 2018
 Deborah Brosdahl (HRSM) – 2019
 Johnathan Ohrt (Education) – 2019
 Peter Binev (Mathematics) – 2020
 Michael Galbreth (Business Admin) – 2020

Appointed Committee Members

Chuck Allen, Board of Trustees
 Jerry Brewer, Associate VP for Student Life
 Valinda Littlefield, FAR/SEC Representative
 Ray Tanner, Director of Athletics
 Toni Torres-McGehee, Immediate Past Chair

Student Committee Members

Marissa Delgado (HRSM)

 Hanna Powers (Information/Communications)

 Luis Bahamonde (Engineering/Computing)

Ex-officio Committee Members

Maria Hickman, Associate AD for Academic & Student Development
 Judy Van Horn, Senior Associate Athletic Director/SWA

The committee met monthly (for a total of 9 meetings) beginning in September, concluding in May of 2018. Meetings were held at the Rice Athletics Center, thanks to the generous arrangements made by Maria Hickman and Judy Van Horn. The committee meeting schedule with topics is listed below. Further summary of key discussion topics is presented.

Meeting #	Date	Topic	Speaker(s)
1	9/13/17	Meet the committee; Roles of committee members	Full committee
2	10/12/17*	Student athlete majors/enrollment; Former student athlete connection	Maria Hickman; Student athlete
3	11/8/17	Game-day experience	Eric Nichols/ Justin King group
4	12/13/17	Athletics financial report	Jeff Tallant
5	1/17/18	Tour of Basketball facilities/650 Lincoln	Steve Eigenbrot/ Dev. Staffer
6	2/14/18	Title IX/Gender Equity	Judy Van Horn
7	3/21/18	“Tanner Time” – interview w/ Ray Tanner	Ray Tanner
8	4/11/18	Sports Science	Jay Patel
9	5/9/18	Life Skills Program	Megan Stoltzfus

Thursday Football Game

University Athletic Advisory Committee: Final Report 2017-18

Chair: P. Brandon Bookstaver (Pharmacy)

On the prompting of Athletic Director Coach Tanner, the committee discussed the pros and cons of a Thursday night home football game. This was in the context of a specific inquiry to Coach Tanner from ESPN. The committee discussed at length and garnered several basic conclusions to help advise the AD.

- University exposure is invaluable, regardless of when this occurs during the season. It was noted the impact the Final Four Run had on admissions as acknowledged by President Pastides previously.
- If the game occurs early in the season (eg Game 1), this is technically before the drop/add date for a course, thus regulating course absences is less tenuous. It was noted the recommendations from the Provost and President in prior years related to on-campus events in the evening, such as a Thursday night home football game.
- The committee could not recall other similar events that may or may not have prompted an early dismissal policy. This was discussed and there was opinions on either side as to whether this should be administrative decision versus faculty specific.
- The challenges of parking and competing interest for other resources (eg police, etc.) were discussed. The frequency of the event, however, being no more than once per year was felt to be acceptable.

While there was no firm recommendations, there was general consensus that the “pros” of having such an event annually (or less frequent) certainly outweighs the “cons”.

Title IX/Gender equity & Crisis Management

Each year the committee values the input from Judy Van Horn and others from the athletic department to share updates both locally and nationally related to Title IX and women’s athletics. It is quite clear that the University Athletics Department values gender equity and places value on all sports, regardless of revenue generating potential. Outside consultants sought by the Athletic Department shared some recommendations for improvement, which were acted upon, but was very complimentary of the people, process and provisions in place for our student athletes. The committee discussed the unparalleled success of our women’s sports too with a national championship (women’s basketball), final four appearance (women’s soccer) and deep runs in the post season by women’s tennis, beach volleyball and softball (who was also a regional host for the first time in a decade).

Judy Van Horn also organizes an annual crisis response event with coaches, administration, faculty, communications, Title IX staff, campus police and others to participate in a mock crisis communication scenario. As many of you know, there have been significant events coming to light among colleges across the country, often involving student athletes. While this could happen anywhere to anyone, the high profile nature of Division 1 athletics invites another level of media attention. While I will spare the details of the scenario, this presented an amazing opportunity to discuss communication lines and appropriate reporting outlets to better prepare the entire university for such an event.

It was my pleasure to serve as UAAC Chair for 2017-18, which concludes my third year on the board. Dr. Deborah Brosdahl will be serving as chair for 2018-19.