

Athletic Council Annual Report for Academic Year 2020–2021

Introduction

Athletic Council (AC) completed its standard business that includes the evaluation of physical activity course instructors, meeting with several College offices that affect Athletics (Advancement, Admissions, Student Academic Services and Academic Advising), selecting the Tim Brown Award, and receiving Athletics updates from the Athletic Director. This year AC was also tasked with overseeing the NCAA mandated self-study, a process that occurs every five years. Finally, AC reviewed and revised its operating code and procedures for evaluating physical activity instructors. To complete this work, AC met nine times during the 2020–2021 academic year.

Physical Activity Instructor Evaluations

Beginning with the annual evaluation of three physical activity instructors. The council's three elected faculty members spent time observing the classes of Amanda Wadsworth, Belinda Colgan, and Sasha LaRosa, and followed with written evaluations submitted to Gail Cummings-Danson (Director of Athletics).

Tim Brown Award

The council annually selects the recipient of the Tim Brown Award, which highlights and celebrates athletic and academic excellence of Skidmore's highly impressive student-athletes. Brian Kowalski was awarded the honor in recognition of his outstanding achievement on the ice and in the classroom.

Annual College Office Meetings

To stay update to date with College policies that impact Athletics, AC has annual meetings with Advancement, Admissions, Student Academic Services, and Academic Advising. This year we met with the Brian DeMichele (Associate Director of Major Gifts) and Ian Farrell (Assistant Vice President for Development) from Advancement, Catherine DeLorenzo (Director of Admissions) Admissions, and Jamin Totino (Director of Student Academic Services) from Student Academic Services, and Alice Buesing (Associate Director of Office of Academic Advising) from Academic Advising. A brief overview of these meeting follows:

Advancement - Brian and Ian provided an update on the Friends of Skidmore Athletics (FOSA). FOSA recently created a Leadership Council that brings together Advancement, Alumni, Athletics, College Events, and representatives from every team except for one. Advancement completed their 4th annual *All In To Win* campaign this year. For the first time, every team met their fundraising goal, with a total 802 total participants raising a record \$245,000. Overall, fundraising also surpassed previous years, with \$1,275,326 raised to date.

Admissions – For the class of 2024 Admissions had approximately 400 rated athletes, 80 enrolled, 52 applied early decision 1, nine early decision 2, and 19 regular decision (these are typical numbers). Immediately after letters for the class of 2024 were sent, Admissions started communicating with prospective students for the class of 2025. Due to COVID-19, Admissions had to pivot in so many ways to recruit the class of 2025. This also greatly affected coaches' ability to meet with prospective student-athletes. Coaches were able to meet with prospective students, outside the Sports Center and following COVID-19 guidelines.

Athletics has 50 admission slots where rated prospective student-athletes' applications are read by two admission counselors. Some are admitted and some are denied. Others are admissible, but need further discussion. The Director of Admissions and the Athletic Director meet with each coach who have student-athletes rated. Student-athletes who need financial aid must be similar in terms of those in the overall class receiving aid, and this limits the number of athletes who can receive aid.

Student Academic Services and Academic Advising - Jamin Totino (Director of Student Academic Services) and Alice Buesing (Associate Director of Office of Academic Advising) provided a brief update on the academic support services available for student-athletes. Jamin provided quantitative reports for 2018, 2019, and 2020 that included metrics such as GPA and the number of academic alerts broken down by sport (and other categories) for all student athletes (n=254). Jamin and Alice provided opportunities for Athletic Council members to ask questions. Jamin provided an overview of practices/policies surrounding the receipt of academic alerts, the development of a new platform for academic alerts that will commence in the fall 2021, and the peer-academic coaching program at-large.

NCAA Self-Study

Every 5 years, the NCAA requires the Athletics Department to do a self-study. The NCAA provides a set of questions that need to be addressed. As done in the past, Athletics formed subgroups to address different aspects of the self-study. AC members were present at subgroup meetings, reviewed and assisted with revisions to the self-study report. The self-study report was submitted to the NCAA at the end of May.

Other Business

AC reviewed and revised its operating code to ensure it reflects current practices. The procedure for evaluating physical activity class instructors was also reviewed and revised.

Athletic Council Members 2020–2021

Cerri Banks (Dean of Students and Vice President for Student Affairs)

Jason Breves (Biology)

Megan Buchanan (Associate Director of Athletics)

Gail Cummings-Danson (Director of Athletics)

Lilly Feldman (Student-Athlete Representative selected by SGA)

Karen Kellogg (Environmental Studies & Sciences)

Sean Lang (Student-Athlete Representative from SAAC)

Michael Orr (Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs)

T.H. Reynolds (Health and Human Physiological Sciences, Chair)

Flagg Taylor (Political Science, NCAA mandated Faculty Athletics Representative)

*This year concludes Karen Kellogg's three-year term on AC. In fall 2021, Jason Breves will serve as Chair and new faculty member will be elected.