

ATHLETIC COUNCIL (AC) ANNUAL REPORT, 2022-2023

Introduction

Athletic Council (AC) conducted its standard business that includes the evaluation of physical activity course instructors, meeting with several College offices that affect Athletics (e.g., Advancement, Admissions, and Student Academic Services), selecting the Tim Brown Award recipient, and receiving updates from the Athletics Director and Associate Director. President Marc Conner met with AC to present an update (and some historical perspective) on the Campus Master Plan with special attention to facilities supporting health, wellness, and athletics. Throughout the academic year, AC engaged in conversations regarding the occurrence of required activities/examinations outside of course meeting times. To complete this work, AC met on 9/26, 10/28, 12/12, 2/13, 3/6, and 4/10 during the 2022–2023 academic year.

Physical Activity Instructor Evaluations

The AC's activities in 2022-2023 began with completing the annual evaluations of three physical activity instructors. The AC's three faculty members (Paul Arciero, Jason Breves, and Lucy Oremland) observed the classes of Karen Hurff, Tom Oppedisano, and Manny Valentin and prepared written evaluations that were submitted to Gail Cummings-Danson (Athletics Director).

Tim Brown Award

AC annually selects the recipient of the Tim Brown Award, which highlights and celebrates athletic and academic excellence of Skidmore's highly impressive student athletes. Carrie Hughes '23 (Field Hockey) was awarded the honor in recognition of her outstanding academic and athletic achievements.

Course Policies

The AC revisited a long-running discussion regarding faculty scheduling course obligations (e.g., exams) that occur outside scheduled course meeting times. Several AC members met with Associate Dean Michael Arnush in July of 2022 to discuss this concern given its impact on students (student athletes and non-student athletes) who have a variety of extra-curricular commitments and/or employment obligations. As a result, Michael reiterated appropriate scheduling policy in messages to faculty at the start of the Fall '22 and Spring '23 semesters. The council received reports of instances, albeit very few, that seemingly violated stated policy. AC brought them to Michael for further consideration. Furthermore, AC received a letter from Nathaniel Lowell (SGA President) on 2/12/23 describing concerns brought to him by students on this matter.

Annual College Office Meetings

To stay updated with college policies and patterns that impact student-athletes, AC holds annual meetings with the Offices of Advancement, Admissions, and Student Academic Services. This year AC met with Brian DeMichele (Associate Director of Major Gifts) on 2/13/23, Matt Cohen (Senior Associate Director of Admissions) on 12/12/22, and Jamin Totino (Director of Student Academic Services) on 4/10/23. A brief overview of these meetings follows:

Advancement – Brian DeMichele (Associate Director of Major Gifts) reported that the “*All In To Win!*” campaign achieved a donation record with \$338K to Athletics from a total of 887 donors. At the time of his report, Brian stated that the college was seeking donors to name the fitness center and weight rooms within the Health, Wellness, Fitness, & Athletics Center at \$5.5 million. Friends of Skidmore Athletics (FOSA) has the goal to raise \$100k/year, at the time of Brian's report, donations were at \$91K. This included a \$25k pledge from the Friends of Skidmore

Athletics Council. The Hall of Fame induction and Thoroughbred Cup are scheduled for the Fall of '23 (suspended during COVID-19 pandemic).

Admissions – Matt Cohen (Senior Associate Director of Admissions) provided an overview of how Admissions and the Athletic Department work together throughout the admission cycle. The two departments are in frequent contact during early rounds, with coaches noting athletes of interest and Admissions sharing determinations on applicants they anticipate will be able to succeed academically at Skidmore. Leading up to the end of each round, coaches are given a number of slots that can be used to admit an athlete who was not admitted (these are athletes that would be able to succeed academically but were simply not admitted on first pass). Matt praised the highly communicative nature of interactions between Admissions and the Athletic Department. He also provided numbers on current applicants at the time of his report – Early Decision 1 applications were slightly up from this time last year, Early Decision 2 applications are the same as last year, and Regular Decision applications are down slightly.

Student Academic Services – Jamin Totino (Director of Student Academic Services) provided a quantitative report for 2022-23 that included metrics such as GPA and the number of academic alerts broken down by team (and other categories) for all student athletes. Data indicate that student athletes perform as well, or perhaps slightly better, than the general student population with respect to GPA. Academic Alerts have increased over the last year, though Jamin noted that this may be due to crossover with OAA/OP. He also highlighted the specific increase in alerts associated with attendance issues, a trend which has continued since COVID-19. AC brought to Jamin's attention our ongoing discussion of exams being offered outside of scheduled class times. SAS is not able to proctor exams for students without accommodations, but Jamin suggested that faculty could advocate for a larger testing center with better resources.

AC Membership 2022–2023:

Paul Arciero (Health and Human Physiological Sciences)

Jason Breves (AC Chair) (Biology)

Megan Buchanan (Associate Director of Athletics)

Jazlin Chen (Student-Athlete Representative from SGA)

Gail Cummings-Danson (Athletics Director)

Pat Fehling (Associate Dean of the Faculty for Infrastructure and Faculty Affairs)

Rory Millar (Student-Athlete Representative from SAAC)

Lucy Oremland (Mathematics and Statistics)

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

John Cosgrove (Lucy Scribner Library) and *Daniel Peterson* (Psychology) will begin their appointments to AC in 2023-24 as replacements for Arciero and Breves. **Lucy Oremland** will serve as the Chair of AC in 2023-24.