



University of Southern Indiana
 University Athletics Council
 Annual Report
 November 25, 2013

The University Athletics Council was established in spring 2010 to provide oversight for the University’s intercollegiate athletics programs and make recommendations to the President. The members of the 2012-2013 UAC represented University faculty, administration, student-athletes, and alumni and are presented below.

Voting Members		Term	Expires
President	Karen Bonnell, Chair	Appointee	
Faculty-B	Laci Rogers	3 years	2016
Faculty-LA	Christy Baker	3 years	2014
Faculty-NHP	Katie Ehlman	3 years	2015
Faculty-SEE	Jeff Seyler	3 years	2015
Student-athlete Spring Sports	Brad Wannemuehler	1 year	2014
Student-athlete Fall Sports	Julia Kohnen	1 year	2014
Alumnus	John Key	3 years	2015
Faculty Senate	Marco Lara Gracia	Appointee	
NCAA Faculty Athletics Rep.	Brody Broshears	Appointee	
Admission	Eric Otto	Appointee	
Business Affairs	Steve Bridges	Appointee	
Registrar	Linda Tribble	Appointee	
Student Fin. Assistance	Mary Jo Harper	Appointee	
Varsity Club	Sandra Hatfield	Appointee	
Non-voting Members			
Athletics Director	Jon Mark Hall	Ex officio	
University Development	Paula Nurrenbern	Ex officio	
NCAA Compliance	Alex Eaton	Ex officio	
Former FAR	Scott Gordon	Ex officio	

The work of the Council is published at <http://www.usi.edu/athleticscouncil> including Council meeting dates, agendas, minutes, and reports. During the 2012-2013 academic year, each of the four council committees met independently from the full Council to discuss issues related to academic progress and integrity, fiscal integrity and facilities planning, governance and compliance, and student-athlete welfare and equity. The full Council met four times during the academic year and virtually over the summer to consider committee recommendations, consider the Athletic Director’s report, direct work on the annual data dashboard, approve a new University NCAA Compliance Manual, and to begin work on a strategic plan for the Council.

In September of 2012, some of the members of the Council’s Facilities Planning and Fiscal Integrity committee attended a webinar entitled, “ Common Financial Fraud Risks in College and University Athletic Programs”. In October of 2012, the new

University NCAA Compliance Manual was completed and later sent out for review by the Council.

In January 2013, the chair of the Academic Progress and Integrity committee reported on the Division II Path to Graduation National Task Force and distributed information about the program to Council members. Associate Athletics Director Alex Eaton reported that they are now holding monthly compliance meetings with coaches to improve the dissemination of compliance information.

In February 2013, members of the Council met to begin the strategic planning process. Each committee was charged with developing and discussing four or five realizable goals for the Council to consider over the next three years. A draft of the Council's strategic plan is presented as an appendix to this report and is expected to be finalized in Fall 2013.

In June 2013, the Council finalized its annual data summary (data dashboard) which is published on its website at <http://www.usi.edu/media/1957016/Spring-2013-USI-Athletics-Council-Data-Dashboard-June-21-2013-.pdf>. The data summary reports that 272 student-athletes participate on 13 sports teams. The University's student-athletes' average cumulative GPA in 2011-2012 was 3.191.

Also in June, the Council approved the University's Institutional Compliance Manual published at http://gousieagles.com/documents/2013/9/3/USI_Athletic_Compliance_Manual_9.3.pdf?id=29. The preamble in the introductory paragraph sums up the University's philosophy, "The University believes a well-conducted intercollegiate athletics program, based on sound educational principles and practices, is a proper part of its mission and that the educational welfare of participating student athletes is of primary concern."

Respectfully submitted,

Karen H. Bonnell, Ph.D.
Chair, University Athletics Council

University Athletics Council Strategic Plan 2013-2016

Mission Statement (Draft)

The mission of the University of Southern Indiana Athletics Council is to provide oversight and support the development of excellence for University intercollegiate athletics and serve as an advisory council to the president. In keeping with this mission, the Council reviews and reports the overall academic progress of university student-athletes and issues regarding their welfare and equity. The Council reviews the University's compliance with rules governing intercollegiate athletics and reviews and makes recommendations for existing or future athletic programs and facilities.

Vision Statement (Draft)

The vision of the University of Southern Indiana Athletics Council is to (1) ensure that all students, faculty, advisors, coaches, staff, and administrators have the necessary information and resources that foster student-athlete academic performance and their athletic participation; (2) provide the framework for the future development of new athletics programs and facilities; and (3) to continue to build upon and refine the existing procedures for compliance in intercollegiate athletics.

Goals Statement (Draft)

The University of Southern Indiana Athletics Council will strive to meet the following goals for 2013-2016 academic years.

Academic Progress and Integrity

1. Review materials and informational strategies that foster effective student-athlete academic advising and make recommendations as needed.
2. Review the student-athlete degree audit process in each college.
3. Expand the annual Athletics Council data summary to include post-graduation data.
4. Examine areas for improvement for academic services and career services such as peer coaching and graduate assistants.
5. Suggest bulletin language that will be specifically inclusive of student-athletes such as the absence policy.

Fiscal Integrity and Facilities Planning

6. Complete an athletics risk assessment under the guidance of the University's internal audit staff which will identify risks and what mitigating strategies have been put in place to address them.
7. Develop a process for providing input from the Fiscal Integrity and Facilities Planning Committee with requests for new athletic programs or the further development of existing programs.

8. Develop athletics-related financial operations monitoring criteria and procedures for evaluation, auditing, and reporting.
9. Develop a formal plan for a periodic athletics facilities assessment and determine a method for reporting and making recommendations to improve or change those facilities as necessary.

Governance and Compliance

10. Foster the maintenance and dissemination of the fact sheets for academic advising of student-athletes to promote consistent and appropriate information.
11. Facilitate the consistent updating of the University Policy and Procedures Manual to reflect any new or modified athletics program changes or NCAA policies and procedures modifications.
12. Promote campus-wide communication about compliance with updated policies, rules, or regulations available to all associated with the University athletics programs and our student-athletes.
13. Review policies concerning equity of student-athletes and students who are not athletes to ensure equal treatment and benefits.

Student-athlete Welfare and Equity

14. Evaluate the University's gender equity policy annually including locker rooms, fields, scholarships, and other items covered by the policy.
15. Review nationwide "best practice" programs offering emotional and academic support to NCAA student-athletes.
16. Increase transparency and visibility of the approved University gender equity policy such as through the USI website, MYUSI, and the Council and Athletics websites.
17. Provide leadership and advocacy, raising awareness of and providing resources to address issues related to equitable opportunities, fair treatment, and respect for LGBTQ student-athletes, coaches, administrators, and all others associated with the University's athletics programs.

Strategies Statement (Draft)

To accomplish the goals for 2013-2016, the members of the University Athletics Council will initiate the following strategies.

1. Each committee will meet to prioritize and develop procedures and timelines for addressing the goals. Progress related to the goals will be reported to the full Council and included in the Council's annual report to the President.
2. Any specific recommendations coming from the committees will be discussed and considered by a vote of the full Council and forwarded to the President.
3. A University Athletics Council data dashboard task force will be organized to include a representative of OPRA. Any recommended changes to the current dashboard format will be forwarded to the task force for inclusion in the annual publication each spring term.
4. The Council will publish regular reports of its proceedings and any related reports on the Council website.

5. The Council will review the goals and strategies annually and use the 2013-2016 University Athletics Council Strategic Plan as a framework for assessment and planning in 2016.