

## **University Athletics Council Strategic Plan 2013-2016**

### ***Our Mission***

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. The Council reviews and reports the 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.

### ***Our Vision***

The vision of the University of Southern Indiana Athletics Council is to become a model for university athletics councils that exemplifies integrity, excellence, and leadership.

### ***Goals***

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

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.
3. Continue to build upon and refine the existing procedures for compliance in intercollegiate athletics.

### ***Objectives***

#### Academic Progress and Integrity Committee

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

#### Fiscal Integrity and Facilities Planning Committee

- Complete an athletics risk assessment under the guidance of the University's internal audit staff which will identify risks and develop mitigating strategies.
- 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.
- Develop athletics-related financial operations monitoring criteria and procedures for evaluation, auditing, and reporting.

- 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 Committee

- Foster the maintenance and dissemination of the fact sheets for academic advising of student-athletes to promote consistent and appropriate information.
- 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.
- 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.
- Review policies concerning equity of student-athletes and students who are not athletes to ensure equal treatment and benefits.

#### Student-athlete Welfare and Equity Committee

- Review nationwide “best practice” programs offering emotional and academic support to NCAA student-athletes.
- Increase transparency and visibility of the approved University gender equity policy through the USI website, MYUSI, and the Council and Athletics websites.
- Evaluate policies relating to welfare, diversity, and equity issues affecting student-athletes including the University’s gender equity policy.
- 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**

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.