



**University Athletics Council
Report
(August 2015 - December 2016)**

The Fall 2016 UAC members representing University faculty, administration, student-athletes, and alumni are presented below. University President Linda L. M. Bennett appoints the majority of members with one representative appointed by Faculty Senate.

Voting Members		Term	Expires
UAC Chair	Katie Ehlman	3 years	2018
Faculty, Romain College of Business	Brian McGuire	3 years	2018
Faculty, College of Liberal Arts	Christy Baker	3 years	2017
Faculty, College of Nursing and Health Professions	Jessica Wood	3 years	2018
Faculty, Pott College of Science, Engineering & Education	Kimberly Jo Delaney	3 years	2018
Student Athlete – Fall Sports	Brian Fischer	2 years	2018
Student Athlete – Spring Sports	Olivia J. Clark-Kittleson	2 years	2017
Alumni	Eileen Weber	3 years	2018
Faculty Senate	Austin Anderson	3 years	2019
NCAA Faculty Athletics Rep	Brody Broshears	Appointee	
Admission	John Campbell	Appointee	
Business Affairs	Jeff Sickman	Appointee	
Registrar	Linda Tribble	Appointee	
Student Fin. Assistance	Mary Jo Harper	Appointee	
Varsity Club	Sandy Hatfield	Appointee	
Non-voting Members			
Athletic Director	Jon Mark Hall	Ex officio	
University Development	Andrea Gentry	Ex officio	
NCAA Compliance and Sr. Women's Admin.	Alex Eaton	Ex officio	
Past FAR	-	Ex officio	

Over the last 18 months, the Council used the University Athletics Council Strategic Plan (approved in March of 2014) as a guide. This plan articulated both the founding mission and vision of the Council's work as well as short-term objectives through 2016. The University Athletics Council Strategic Plan is publically available on the University Athletics Council website at <https://www.usi.edu/athleticscouncil/downloads/>. A new planning document should be developed in early 2017 to set the direction for the Council over the next few years.

The Council produced the University Athletics Council Data Summary for 2016. This document is also posted on the University Athletics Council website. These “data dashboards” provide readers with a snapshot of certain aspects of the athletics program monitored by the Council, including academic progress of student-athletes, NCAA compliance, gender equity and facilities usage.

Over the last 18 months, the work of the UAC has become more visible on the USI campus as evident in the following examples. First, on September 2, 2016, Jon Mark Hall and Katie Ehlman presented to the Faculty Senate and shared information on the UAC mission, vision, purpose, composition and selected data dashboard items. Second, on November 9, 2016, Katie Ehlman presented similar information at the Athletics Staff meeting. Third, the UAC approved policies, procedures and documents are posted on the UAC website. Likewise, UAC agendas and approved minutes are also posted and publically available. Finally, USI Athletics Inclusion statement (approved in the spring of 2015) has been added to the Student-Athlete Handbook, the Compliance Manual and the Athletics Policies and Procedures Handbook. The USI Athletics Inclusion Statement has also been posted on signage outside USI’s Athletic Office in the Physical Activity Center (PAC) as well as in PAC locker rooms and team rooms.

The Academic Progress and Integrity Subcommittee (chaired by Brody Broshears) reports that the Athletic Peer Coaching Program is fully functional in Academic Skills. Additionally, career programs through Lilly and Expressway Dodge were implemented to support student athletes. Preliminary steps have been taken to develop bulletin language related to student-athlete absence policy.

The Fiscal Integrity and Facilities Planning Subcommittee (chaired by Jeff Sickman) provided updates on the PAC renovation project to the UAC. Additionally, this subcommittee drafted an Intercollegiate Sports Program Approval Procedure. This procedure was reviewed by the full council and was approved in the Fall of 2016. This procedure can be found on the UAC website. Jeff Sickman replaced Steve Bridges as subcommittee chair in the spring of 2016.

The Governance and Compliance Subcommittee (chaired by Mary Jo Harper) developed a coach/camp expenditure spreadsheet and continues to update policies and procedures to reflect NCAA Division II policy changes. Additionally, to share NCAA policy updates with college advisors, Alex Eaton attends the College Advisor Director meetings once a semester.

The Student Athlete Welfare and Equity Subcommittee (chaired by Austin Anderson) continues to evaluate items on the gender-equity policy. Alex Eaton, Austin Anderson and Katie Ehlman attended the NCAA Inclusion Conference in Indianapolis in January of 2016. Information from this conference pertaining to LGBTQ leadership and advocacy was shared with members of the Student Athlete Welfare and Equity Subcommittee and the full UAC. The Student Athlete Welfare and Equity Subcommittee has been charged with raising awareness and promoting equitable treatment for USI’s LGBTQ athletes, coaches, administrators and all others associated with USI athletics. In response to this charge, this subcommittee proposes asking the USI athletic community to complete a LGBTQ climate survey. Based on results of this survey, the subcommittee will propose next steps related to awareness, education and/or advocacy. Researching validated LGBTQ climate surveys and designing an appropriate tool for USI Athletics is underway.

Looking ahead to the next 12 months, Council members should expect to extend their strategic plan over the next five years and continue to provide representation and support for Athletics.

Respectively submitted,

Katie Ehlman
Chair, University Athletics Council