

University Athletics Council  
Strategic Plan  
2017-2020

***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 2017-2020 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

Access for Opportunity by Design

- Continue to review materials and informational strategies that foster effective student-athlete academic success and make recommendations as needed.
- Evaluate and expand the student-athlete degree audit process in each college, utilizing Degree Works and college staff.
- Examine, monitor, and highlight areas for improvement for academic and career services and actively highlight accomplishments in these areas.
- Review all bulletin language and make recommendations that could be specifically inclusive of student athletes, such as the class attendance policy.

Fiscal Integrity and Facilities Planning Committee

Purposeful and sustainable growth

- In support of USI's goal to be awarded the Learfield Directors' Cup, the Facility Operations and Fiscal Integrity Subcommittee intends to undertake a targeted revenue study of Athletics Department revenues in four categories: event-related revenues such as ticket sales; sponsorships and advertising; fundraising;

and University support. The purpose of the study will be to evaluate how USI compares to other institutions in these specific areas within the Great Lakes Valley Conference and, subsequently, to other institutions nationally that rank ahead of USI in the Learfield Cup standings.

- The subcommittee seeks to assist the Athletics Department with its long-term facility planning through a targeted facility study. The purpose of the study will be to identify how USI compares to other GLVC institutions in terms of facilities for each sport.

#### Governance and Compliance Committee

##### Access and Opportunity by Design

- 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.
- Compile and disseminate “at-a-glance” information materials to student-athletics regarding basic requirements to retain federal, state, conference, and NCAA eligibility.

#### Student-Athlete Welfare and Equity Committee

##### Access for Opportunity by Design

- LGBT Inclusion initiatives: Provide leadership and advocacy, raise awareness, and provide learning 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 athletic programs.
- Gender equity: Evaluate perceptions of gender equity issues affecting student-athletes and create policies/programs aimed at ensuring equal opportunities for student-athletes of all genders.
- Facility and program design: Serve as a liaison for issues concerning the design of new facilities and programs to ensure equity in the physical design of spaces and within programmatic opportunities.

### **Strategies Statement**

To accomplish the goals for 2017-2020, 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 2017-2020 University Athletics Council Strategic Plan as a framework for assessment and planning in 2020.