

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA at MONROE
University Athletics Academic Advisory Committee



ANNUAL REPORT
2011-2012

H. Ulas Ograk
UAAAC Chair

Brett Bennett
Faculty Athletics Representative

Introductory Statement

The University Athletics Academic Advisory Committee (UAAAC) was formed by President Bruno in June 2011. UAAAC replaced the previous University Athletics Council. The newly formed committee was interim chaired by Mr. Brett Bennett for the first seven months until President Bruno appointed Dr. Ulas Ograk chairperson.

This report is organized as follows:

- Section I contains a list of active UAAAC members
- Section II includes a schedule of meetings held by UAAAC
- Section III includes an executive summary of committee activities
- Section IV consists of committee recommendations

Section I: Membership

The UAAAC is composed of 12 voting members listed in the table below. In addition, Mr. Robert Staub, Director of Athletics, and Ms. Tasha Fisher, Senior Compliance Administrator serve as non-voting members by virtue of their office.

NAME	DEPARTMENT	AREA	E-MAIL
Dr. Mary Adams	English	AS	madams@ulm.edu
Mr. Brett Bennett	Radiological Technology	HS	bbennett@ulm.edu
Mr. Nate Brown	Student	STUDENT	brownj@warhawks.ulm.edu
Ms. Sammie Bruscato	Community member	COMMUNITY	samiam10s@comcast.net
Mr. Bob Cage	Community member	COMMUNITY	bdcage@att.net
Ms. Roxanne Cassel	Student	STUDENT	casselr@warhawks.ulm.edu
Dr. Wilson Campbell	Kinesiology	ED	wcampbell@ulm.edu
Mr. Anthony Malta	Registrar	AA	malta@ulm.edu
Ms. Barbara Michaelides	Student Success	AA	michaelides@ulm.edu
Dr. H. Ulas Ograk	Management	BA	ograk@ulm.edu
Dr. Carl Thamelng	Communication	AS	thamelng@ulm.edu
Dr. Anthony Walker	Clinical/Admin. Science	PH	awalker@ulm.edu

Section II: Meetings

Meetings were held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Student Success Center. The dates for the meetings were:

- 11 August, 2011
- 7 September, 2011
- 5 October, 2011
- 2 November, 2011
- 9 January, 2012
- 7 February, 2012

- 6 March, 2012
- 3 April, 2012
- 2 May, 2012

Section III: Activities

Discussion on Subcommittees

There seems to be some confusion among committee members concerning the sub-committees. There is a consensus among members that more information and definition is needed concerning the responsibilities of the four subcommittees. In addition, with NCAA revamping the athletic certification cycle, a revision in the subcommittees and their responsibilities is likely to be necessary.

Scheduling

UAAAC reviewed three schedules for the upcoming 2012-1013 academic year: football, volleyball, and soccer. After careful consideration of the schedules, the committee concluded that minimal class days would be missed by football. Volleyball will miss approximately seven class days. Soccer will miss slightly more, with eight total excused absences (all based on a MWF schedule, with each miss corresponding to a 50-minute class session). Mr. Staub noted that soccer's travel schedule is somewhat heavier this year as the new coach must go on the road in order to re-establish home schedules with a number of schools. The UAAC will monitor soccer scheduling closely next year to ensure that the travel schedule does not burden the student-athletes.

Athletic Budget

The athletic budget was not reviewed by UAAAC as the budget was not available.

Section IV: Recommendations

Subcommittees

A review of the subcommittees and their responsibilities is recommended. The committee chair and the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) are willing work to re-define the subcommittees in-line with the new NCAA certification cycle should you choose to charge us with the task.

Scheduling

The current procedure of reviewing and approving the schedules in a post hoc manner is not efficient as it is often too late to make changes by the time the schedules are made available for review. Although NCAA has a number of rules in place that prevent unreasonably early departures and unreasonably late returns, the members of the committee feel it is important to institute policies above and beyond the university seat time rules. Therefore, the committee recommends that the UAAAC be charged with establishing clear scheduling guidelines for the coaches to prevent schedule related conflict before it arises and therefore ensure student-athlete well-being and academic progress.

The committee also recommended that the instructors of student athletes receive a memo from the office of the Athletic Director indicating the student athletes' travel schedule at the beginning of each semester. Although instructors continue to receive the regular e-mails about excused absences, it is the committee's position that a

formal memo at the beginning of the semester would ensure that the instructors of record are aware of the presence and the travel schedules of student-athletes in their classes at the beginning of the semester, which would give the instructors ample time to make arrangements with the student-athletes to ensure their absence puts minimal strain on their academic progress.

Athletic Budget

We recommend that the athletic budget is made available for UAAAC's review.

Mission

We recommend that a distinguishing mission statement that articulates UAAAC's purpose; its reason for existence, its stakeholders and its commitment to them should be formulated. The mission statement would provide overall direction and serve as the source of the committee objectives. Aside from providing direction, effective mission statements evoke commitment to common goals. The committee would be happy to formulate a mission statement for the President's review and approval should he choose to charge the committee with the task.