

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA at MONROE
University Athletics Academic Advisory Committee



ANNUAL REPORT
2013-2014

H. Ulas Ograk
Chair

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 includes the recommendations

Section I: Membership

The UAAAC is composed of 12 voting members listed in the table below. In addition the Director of Athletics and 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
Dr. Bob Cage	Community member	COMMUNITY	bdcage@att.net
Dr. Leonard Clark	Dean's Office	ED	leclark@ulm.edu
Dr. Tommie Church	Kinesiology	ED	church@ulm.edu
Mr. Tom DeNardin	Management/Aviation	BA	denardin@ulm.edu
Dr. James Greenlaw	Community Member	COMMUNITY	jimgreenlaw@comcast.net
Mr. Anthony Malta	Registrar	AA	malta@ulm.edu
Ms. Barbara Michaelides	Student Success	AA	michaelides@ulm.edu
Dr. H. Ulas Ograk	Management/Aviation	BA	ograk@ulm.edu
Mr. Kevin Price	Athletics	AD	kprice@ulm.edu
Dr. Carl Thameling	Communication	AS	thameling@ulm.edu
Dr. Anthony Walker	Clinical/Admin. Science	PH	awalker@ulm.edu
Mr. Brian Wickstrom	Athletics	AD	wickstrom@ulm.edu

Section II: Meetings

Below are the meeting times for the academic year 2013-2014. All meetings were held at the Student Success Center

- August 12, 2013
- September 3, 2013
- October 1, 2013
- November 5, 2013
- January 21, 2014
- March 18, 2014
- April 29, 2014

Section III: Activities

Subcommittees

As indicated in last year's report, there was 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 was necessary.

Accordingly, the committee voted and unanimously agreed to re-structure the 4 existing subcommittees into 3 subcommittees, which will benefit our relatively small committee. Therefore, the existing subcommittees below were re-organized to form the following subcommittees:

Previous sub-committees:

- **Governance and Commitment to Rules Compliance**
- **Academic Integrity**
- **Equity and Student Well-Being**
- **Fiscal Integrity**

After re-organization:

- **Equity and Student Well-being:**
Tommie Church, Leonard Clark, Anthony Walker
- **Academic Integrity and Compliance:**
Barbara Michaelides, Brett Bennett, Carl Thameling, Tom DeNardin, Anthony Malta
- **Governance and Fiscal Integrity:**
Mary Adams, Bob Cage, James Greenlaw, Ulas Ograk

The sub-committees will meet independently, and attend other committee meetings (such as Academic Integrity and Compliance members attending the PATF meetings), and report the developments in the general UAAAC meetings.

Meeting Schedule

In an effort to make UAAAC more efficient, and based on the re-structuring of the sub-committees, it was decided to meet three times per semester instead of monthly meetings. The sub-committees continued to meet independently, and reported their activities and other developments in the UAAAC meetings.

Athletic Budget

The Athletic Budget continues to be a concern. The budget was never made available to the committee members despite numerous requests and heated discussion. As a matter of fact, Kevin Price admitted to not having a budget at our April meeting after I confronted him. Transparency in the Athletic Department, especially concerning the budget, is extremely important given the overall budget situation. Due to the unwillingness of the Athletic Department to make the budget available, UAAAC has been, and continues to be unable to perform its responsibility to “to review annually the athletic budget and subsequently provide advice and guidance as needed,” as indicated in Section 2.4.5 of UAAAC Guidelines. This further hinders the ability of the UAAAC members to form a bridge between athletics and faculty.

Scheduling

Baseball continues to be a concern with scheduling. With multiple away series where student athletes are on the road for a prolonged period of time, and 56 games in 13 weeks, it is extremely important that we pay attention to all aspects of this particular schedule. The group discussed methods for easing the travel burden, and Price stated, “We need to work towards having as many midweek home games as possible.”

Complimentary Tickets

Some members have expressed concerns regarding the free season tickets provided to UAAAC members. The group discussed the possible perception of conflict of interest. The committee decided that UAAAC faculty/staff representatives no longer receive complimentary tickets, with the exception of UAAAC community representatives, who do not pose a conflict of interest risk, and therefore will continue to receive complimentary season tickets.

Section IV: Recommendations

Scheduling

The committee recommends 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

The committee recommends that the athletic budget is made available for UAAAC's review. The Governance and Fiscal Integrity Sub-committee was formed to attend Athletics Department meetings, including the budget meetings, either the meetings either never took place, or the sub-committee members were never invited to the meetings. There was one attempt by the AD to schedule a meeting for the last day of the Mardi Gras Holiday, and my e-mail was ignored when I indicated that it was an official holiday. Mr. Wickstrom ended up canceling the meeting the day it was scheduled due to a "last-minute" emergency.

It is my personal observation that either Brian Wickstrom perceives UAAAC as a formality, or he is too busy, quite possibly both. This is evident as he only attended 1 out of 7 meetings. As the AD, he needs to be aware that the internal constituents are just as important as external constituents, and open, transparent communication with UAAAC members is essential to accomplish this.

Respectfully submitted on June 12, 2014,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Ograk', written in a cursive style.

H. Ulas Ograk, Ph.D.
Chair, UAAAC