

University Athletic Board (UAB) 2020-2021 Annual Report to Faculty Senate

It should be noted that the athletics program at CCSU suffered a tragic loss of one of its key advocates for student athletes. Kevin Oliva was a staunch supporter of the student athletes in his role as the director of the Academic Center for Student Athletes. He is greatly missed by all who knew him.

1. COVID 19

COVID – 19 had very large impact of Athletics during the 2020-2021 Academic Year

- No fall competition
- Phases of campus reintegration were discussed, student-athletes are slowly making a return to the playing field.
- Athletes are working very hard to make sure they aren't the reason everyone goes home – successful so far!
- Phase zero: no athletic activity (first two weeks), staff worked to clear everyone medically.
- Phase one: once everyone was cleared, small groups of 5 could work out together.
- Phase two: up to twelve student-athletes could train together.
- Precautions: continual testing, coaches wear masks, students received a PPE package, hydration falls on the students (bring bottles), indoor sport athletes wear masks, outdoor athletes' social distance.

2. PHASE I 10/20

- All teams are practicing safely (spaced out), indoor sport athletes wear masks.
- Future is "TBA."
- NEC is trying to decide if fall/winter sports can be played in the spring.
- Big revenue hit – no guaranteed games.
- Ongoing weekly meetings with NEC + SWA's.
- Basketball is "fluid" – not sure what schedule will look like.

3. COMPETITION UPDATE 11/20

- Women's basketball is on pause, men's basketball is preparing to play.
- Men's basketball is scheduled to play UCONN, CCSU is testing daily.
- Women's basketball is looking to begin conference play on December 13th.
- Swimming championships have been moved to April.
- Presidents will vote in December on spring sports.

4. WINTER/SPRING TEAM REPORTS 2/21

- CCSU opted out of football season.
- Student-Athletes lost practice time, worried about safety.
- Will now focus on preparing for Fall 2021.
- Currently winding down basketball, almost ready to begin spring and fall-to-spring seasons.
- Baseball and softball both open two weekends from now.

- Fields are being plowed and will be ready for use.
- Schedule is day-to-day, testing is on-going, and teams are doing well.

5. SPRING SEASON OF COMPETITION

- Women's soccer missed a few games due to positive COVID tests.
- We are hosting the diving championship over the weekend.
- Women's lacrosse has played all games to date, attempting to stack home games.
- Volleyball season is almost over.
- COVID testing is ongoing across all sports.
- Athletics is sticking with the rule not to have fans
- All games are live streamed.

6. MEN'S BASKETBALL HC SEARCH

- The program is looking for a reboot, stressing holding student-athletes accountable.
- Expecting around 120 applications, anticipating search will conclude around the end of April.
- Patrick Sellars was hired.

7. OTHER DISCUSSIONS

- Student-athletes (across all sports) had a 3.24 GPA in the spring!
- Pass/fail option was helpful, as were continual meetings with students-athletes.
- M. D'Arcy added: we can't overlook the sacrifices of the student-athletes, they are back – and on a campus that is far from normal.
- Comradery is largely gone, can't just sit around the café and chat.
- Campus life experiences are gone, socializing opportunities are lost.
- Student-athletes are trying to make the best of a very difficult situation.
- **Voter Registration Effort**
 - i. Molly has been working hard to get student-athletes registered.
 - ii. Some teams have 100% voter registration!
 - iii. No athletic activities will be held on Election Day.
- **Graduation Rates**
 - i. Submitted back in June, rates down from last year.
 - ii. Working on academic progress rate.
 1. There are a lot of self-applied waivers that schools could write this year.
 2. Athletes did great this past spring!
- **Extended Eligibility**
 - i. Spring student-athletes have been granted a COVID-19 extension.
 - ii. If you played all 4 years and are graduating in that timespan, no extension applies.
 - iii. Waiting to see what happens with Fall athletes.
- **New Legislation**
 - i. Anticipates seeing new transfer legislation issued in January.
 - ii. The possibility exists that the NCAA will allow immediate transfer eligibility.

- iii. Name, image, and likeness is also still a hot topic being discussed.
- **Academic Progress of Student-Athletes**
 - i. K. Oliva was asked how student-athletes are adjusting this semester. He responded that progress reports have been sent out, majority are coming back positive.
 - ii. Faculty have done an excellent job with academic warnings.
 - iii. His office is getting great feedback-and quickly!
 - iv. Now waiting to see if pass/fail gets approved for this semester.
- **Mental Health**
 - i. We need to be sensitive to the mental health of our students.
- **Campus Integration**
 - i. Many integration opportunities are suspended (club sports are cancelled, limited student activities happening).
 - ii. Student-athletes tend to segregate themselves; campus needs to brainstorm how to integrate athletes with CCSU student body.
 - iii. A key is to get athletes out of non-athletic context (like study abroad).

Respectfully submitted

Paul Resetarits and Diana Cohen

Co- Chairs of the University Athletics Board (UAB) 2020-21