

University Athletic Board (UAB)
2022-2023 Annual Report to Faculty Senate

Members: D. Cohen, K. Byrd-Danso, M. D’Arcy, E. Dlugolenski, J. Guzman (SGA rep.), D. Harackiewicz, S. Koski, M. Mackey, T. Pincince, A. Rafter (SAAC rep.), B. Sommers, A. Strickland, I. Vera

Academic performance of Student-athletes F22

Fall 22 numbers (N=416)

34% above 3.5

63% earned above a 3.0 GPA

Mean GPA: 3.11

President’s List (4.0): 29 student-athletes

Dean’s List (3.5): 120 student-athletes

28 student-athletes on academic probation

7 student-athletes ineligible for SP23

Men’s soccer had highest GPA

Team GPA’S:

Sport	Term GPA
Men's Baseball	2.95
Men's Basketball	2.73
Men's Cross Country	3.29
Men's Football	2.60
Men's Track	3.07
Men's Soccer	3.40
Women's Basketball	3.33
Women's Cross Country	3.26
Women's Track	3.21
Women's Lacrosse	3.34
Women's Soccer	3.30
Women's Softball	3.14
Women's Swimming	3.16
Women's Volleyball	3.37

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE PROGRAM (APP)

Looking at the Academic Progress Rate (APR) for the 2021-2022 cohort, seven of the sixteen CCSU teams had scores of 1000 (perfect). Men's basketball scored a single-year 1000, raising their four-year score to 952. This increase moves them away from NCAA APR penalties. As a department, Athletics continues to follow the improvement plan submitted to ensure continued success. For explanations of the APR and its calculation, click the links below.

- i. [NCAA DIVISION I Academic Progress Rate](#)
- ii. [Calculating Academic Progress Rate \(example\)](#)

Academic At-Risk Student Process

Following the Fall 2022 term, UAB members met with academic at-risk students—those who presented below a 2.0 cumulative GPA. Academic recovery plans were created for each student. The Academic Center for Student-athletes (ACSA) monitors the students' progress as it pertains to the recovery plan (through progress reports, emails, and other updates). The UAB received an update from the ACSA after mid-terms and worked with the students and coaches if it was deemed necessary.

GRADUATION RATES

Federal Graduation Rates

The annual report gives graduation information about the most recent six-year graduating class of students and student-athletes who entered CCSU as first-year students during Fall 2015 and Spring 2016. Student-athletes measured are those who receive an athletic scholarship upon entrance as a first-year student for Fall 2015 or Spring 2016. All students are those who were enrolled in a first-time, full-time program of studies entering Fall 2015 or Spring 2016.

	Number Student 2015 Cohort	Six Year Graduation Rate	Four class average
All Students	1343	55%	54%
Student-Athletes	62	58%	59%

Student-Athlete Graduation Success Rate (GSR)

The GSR is specific to NCAA schools; it adds to the first-time first-year students, those student-athletes who entered midyear, as well as student-athletes who transferred into an institution and received athletics aid. The GSR also subtracts those who left the institution prior to graduation, had athletics eligibility remaining, and were academically eligible to compete had they returned.

CCSU's student-athlete GSR is 77%.

STUDENT-ATHLETE WELFARE

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Kathy Bantley (*FAR*) and Amy Strickland (Assoc. AD/Compliance) are preparing a diversity, equity and inclusion review as requested by the NCAA and Northeast Conference (NEC). The review will be a living document that can be reviewed and updated annually. The first completion date must be no later than August 1, 2023.

Mental Health

Coaches who have concerns about a student-athlete's mental health may take one of two routes. The first is for the Coach to connect with campus counseling and walk their students to campus counseling services. The other route the coach may take is to reach out to Molly McCarthy (Assistant AD for Compliance and Student Services) to let her know their concerns. Ms. McCarthy will then reach out that day to the student or meet with them immediately. When Ms. McCarthy meets with the student-athlete, she serves as a liaison to listen and determine if the student-athlete is in immediate crisis. She then asks the student-athlete if they are interested in counseling and if they'd like her to make the call to connect them. She lets the student know the process for intake, the questions they will be asked right away and lets them know about the many counselors on campus. Most times she will call over and introduce the student who then takes over and schedules the appointment. In more time sensitive cases, Ms. McCarthy will call counseling first, walk the student over, and then wait for them while they are in their session. She then checks in with the student after their appointment to see how they are and discuss their next steps moving forward for counseling, care etc.

During the 2022-2023 academic year, CCSU received special NEC funding to utilize for mental health support for student-athletes. Monies received were used on guest speakers, books, t-shirts for all athletes, special meetings, functions and more. The NEC provided a mental health speaker, Ivy Watts for all athletes, coaches, and staff. Ms. Watts came to campus in January 2023.

UAB Outreach

At its opening meeting of the academic year, it was decided that members of the UAB would be more visible around campus and the community to show support for student-athletes, connect with alumni, and answer any questions posed. Members attended two football games, two men's basketball games, and two women's basketball games. Members also met with the SAAC (Student-athlete Advisory Committee) in both the fall and spring.

In addition to the above, the UAB created school/college liaisons from its membership. The liaisons reached out to Department chairs in each school/college to set up meetings with the Director of the Academic Center for Student-athletes (I. Vera) and the Associate Director of Athletics/Compliance (A. Strickland). These meetings focused on how academics and athletics could best work together to ensure the successful progression of student-athletes through their

major while balancing their participation in athletics. To date, Ms. Vera and Ms. Strickland have attended six department meetings.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

On top of the commitment student-athletes make toward their academic pursuits and their sport, they give back to the campus and greater New Britain community by engaging in both campus & community service. One can observe athletes participating annually in events such as open house, accepted students' day, and graduation. In addition, student-athletes participate in a variety of community engagement activities. In Fall 22, student-athletes had over 1300 hours of community engagement. Some of these came from student-athletes participating in a pen pal program with local youth, hosting a free athletic clinic, participating in a community cleanup project, and the collection of paper/pencils for a local elementary school. Community engagement for SP23 is ongoing. Below is a list of the events to date for this academic year:

- *Read Across America Day/Week* (all teams)
- *Hoops for Homeless*—since inception, our students have helped referee the daylong event to help raise money to fight homeless problem in CT (Men's and Women's BB teams)
- *CCSU Open House and Accepted Students Day* (all teams)
- *Fundraisers for school supplies to New Britain Elementary Schools* (Volleyball-initiated)
- *Be the Match* (Football/Men's Soccer)—bone marrow sign up drive—one student matched and donated marrow to save the life of a toddler (Mike Mushaw, FB student-athlete) see coverage: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Di7r8RiH1mI>
- *Food drives to benefit Maria's Place*—thousands of foods collected, clothing, and money raised (all teams)
- *Community Clean ups* and leaf raking in New Britain neighborhoods (all teams)
- *Letter writing campaign* to elders at Jerome Home in New Britain (multiple teams)
- *Operation Christmas Child*—students and staff pack shoeboxes with gifts that were sent to children all around the world, with thousands donated over the years (all teams)
- *Beautiful Lives Project*—hosted immersive events for people with intellectual and physical disabilities (Men's Basketball and Football)
- *Team IMPACT*—children facing serious illness and disability are paired with a college team that embraces and includes them in multiple activities throughout the year (Football, Softball, Lacrosse)
- *Free Clinics* for the community (Swim, Women's Basketball, Men's and Women's Soccer)
- *CCARC*—spend time and engage in activities with organization that helps people with disabilities

- *National Girls & Women in Sport Day* – hosted a free clinic in February 2023 for approximately 60 young girls, poster making, pizza and entrance to the women's basketball game (All women's sports participated including cheer and dance teams)

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Annually, the Department of Athletics recognizes its graduating seniors and academic student-athletes. The event normally takes place the first week of May. Recognition is for graduating seniors, highest female graduating senior GPA, highest male graduating senior GPA, highest team GPA from the past two terms (Spring 2022/Fall 2022) and recognition of those athletes who have achieved a 3.2 or higher, 3.5 or higher and 4.0.

ATHLETICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Athletics Advisory Committee meets on the first Tuesday every month. The goal for AY22-23 for the Committee is to assist Athletics in developing a five-year strategic plan. After reviewing the Athletics Task Force Report, the Athletics Sustainability Plan and the CCSU Athletics Efficiency Study, and sample strategic plans, the Committee began discussions regarding a strategic plan. This started with being informed of the financials of the department, including University allocation, scholarship information and revenue numbers, the number of student-athletes in total, the number on full and partial scholarships and the number of students who pay full or partial tuition/fees/housing for the year. After reviewing more detailed information on these numbers, the Committee provided feedback in the development of the five-year strategic plan. This plan is to be presented to the Faculty Senate in May.

CCSU Athletics Advisory Committee Members

Tom Pincince, *Director of Athletics*

Amy Strickland, *Associate AD/SWA/Former CCSU student-athlete*

Kathy Bantley, *Professor of Criminology/Former student-athlete/FAR*

Stephanie Blozy, *CEO Fleet Feet (West Hartford)*

Julie DeFalco, *Controller*

CJ Jones, *Director of Athletics Emeritus/ CCSU Sports Committee/Former CCSU student-athlete*

Matt Riley, *Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations/Institutional Advancement*

Tina Rivera, *Alum/IT Staff CCSU*

Juan Roman, *Alum/Former CCSU student-athlete*

Dan Salerno, *New Britain City Treasurer/Alderman/New Britain Common Counsel*

Charlene Shepard, *Alum/Former CCSU student-athlete/ CCSU Sports Committee*

Dan Siracusa, *Alum/Former CCSU student-athlete/Owner Siracusa Moving and Storage*

John Tully, *Interim Vice President for Student Affairs*

Matt Warshauer, *Professor of History/Alum*

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Bantley & Diana Cohen

Co- Chairs of the University Athletics Board (UAB) 2022-2023