The University Athletics Committee met this morning.

AD Barnhart provided a department report.

The 2014-15 season has ended, and UK Athletics enters the summer and the 2015-16 season with strong momentum thanks to our women’s track and field team. We were joined today by Coach Edrick Floreal and a special group of young women just days after they became the national runners-up at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championship, the best finish in school history. Kendra Harrison won the national championship in the 100-meter hurdles, Dezerea Bryant won the title in the 200 meters and both barely fell short of winning other events in remarkable performances that served as a fitting cap for their decorated careers. Also contributing, Leah Nugent and Sha’Keela Saunders won bronze medals, and Rebecca Famurewa and Keilah Tyson scored their first NCAA Championship points.

We are projected to finish in the top 25 of the final Directors’ Cup standings for the third straight season, which would be a first for our program. Fifteen of our 22 teams contributed to our tally, including softball with its third consecutive Super Regional berth and women’s tennis with back-to-back NCAA Tournament trips.

It is because of that comprehensive success that we achieved the goals set as part of the 15 by 15 by 15 Plan, which ends this summer. The men’s basketball SEC Tournament championship in March gave us our 15th conference or national title, while last year’s 11th-place Directors’ Cup finish put us a year ahead of schedule in reaching the top 15 of national all-sports standings.

**Off the Field**

Our scholarship student-athletes combined for a 3.075 GPA this spring, marking the sixth straight semester we have posted a department-wide GPA of better than 3.0. Our academic success is also reflected in the 63 current and former athletes who graduated last month and all 22 of our
teams surpassing the NCAA score with the release of Academic Progress Rates in May.

UK Athletics takes its commitment to academics and contributing meaningfully to our university’s mission seriously, and that is reflected in the progress being made every day on both the Academic Science Building and The New Commonwealth Stadium. The grand opening of the Stadium is less than 80 days away. There will be new restrooms, concourses, and premium areas. The new state-of-the-art playing surface is also nearing completion.

Construction also continues on the new football training facility, which has a planned completion of next summer. Combining that and the new stadium, the football program will have the facilities it needs to compete for championships. The goal for all 22 sports programs is to provide facilities that allow our students to become their best. The plans that will be brought before the board for new privately-financed facilities for our baseball and men’s and women’s tennis programs support the effort to improve facilities offered to our student-athletes.

**In Business Items**

The Committee considered the financial statements of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. Melissa Gleason, Senior Associate Athletics Director - Finance, reviewed the interim financial statements of the department for the nine months ended March 31, 2015. The information included the statement of net position, the statement on revenue and expenses, and the change in net position. The financial statements will be included in FCR 2. The Committee accepted the quarterly financial statements as presented.

DeWayne Peevy presented the 2015-16 Basketball Ticket Prices, which had the first price increase in 3 years. The proposed pricing remains at or below that of men’s basketball peers such as Duke, Kansas, and UCLA. Mr. Peevy also explained the 5 Pricing Tiers for tickets that reflects true demand based on day of the week and opponent. This allows for more affordable single-game tickets when available for early-season opponents.
Melissa Gleason presented a detailed Fiscal Year 2015-16 Operating Budget for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. This budget is included in the University wide budget presented in FCR 3. The Committee accepted the FY 15-16 Operating Budget for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics as presented.

UK Athletics seeks approval to move forward with the design of an expanded and upgraded Boone Tennis Center. FCR 9 Design Phase of the Expand Hilary J. Boone Tennis Center Capital Project was recommended for approval to the Finance Committee with the cost of design not expected to exceed $800,000. A new facility will position our tennis programs to take an important and needed step forward. Our men’s team had a streak of six straight Sweet 16 trips before this season and won the SEC championship in 2012, while our women’s team has reestablished itself as a contender with back-to-back NCAA Tournament trips. The two teams have accomplished all this playing and practicing in a facility with much room for improvement.

Presented in FCR 10 Design Phase of the Construct Baseball Facility Capital Project, the new baseball stadium will seat 4,500 and will be located adjacent to our soccer and softball stadiums on Alumni Drive. The Committee recommended approval to the Finance Committee of the cost of design expected to not exceed $4,000,000.

These new facilities will make UK an option to host SEC and NCAA tournaments that the current facilities cannot accommodate. As previously stated, both of these projects will be funded with private funds.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.