

Minutes of the University Athletics Committee
University of Kentucky
Thursday, June 18, 2020

The University Athletics Committee of the University of Kentucky met on Thursday, June 18, 2020, via Zoom webinar.

A. Meeting Opened

Trustee David Melanson, Chair of the University Athletics Committee, called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. Chair Melanson asked Katie Hardwick to call the roll.

B. Roll Call

The following members of the University Athletics Committee were present: Board Members Claude A. "Skip" Berry, III, Cammie Grant, David Melanson, and Rachel Webb; Community Advisory Members Vickie Bell, Wilbur Hackett, and Paula Hanson; and Faculty Athletics Representative Joe Fink.

C. Chairs Report

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2020, meeting. Trustee Webb moved for approval. Trustee Grant seconded the motion and it carried without dissent.

Chair Melanson reported that 75 student-athletes graduated in May; 35 with honors; three graduating with team national championships; seven with conference championships; and two graduated with bowl championships. Among the 75 graduates, there were seven All-Americans and 18 All-Southeastern performers. "One person stood out among the field," Chair Melanson stated, "our very own Community Advisory Committee member Wilbur Hackett. Mr. Hackett earned his degree in May, five decades after finishing his Kentucky football career and has been making history since he stepped foot on UK's campus. He was the first African American Captain in any sport in the Southeastern Conference (SEC), and I was thrilled to see him earn his degree in liberal studies. We continue to be inspired by you." The Committee responded with applause.

Chair Melanson introduced President Capilouto for remarks.

D. President's Remarks

The President congratulated Wilbur Hackett and thanked Athletics Director Barnhart and his team. "None of us could predict a national pandemic, an economic recession, and the social issues we are confronted with today. Mitch and his team have responded constructively and positively in a way that reflects best on the Commonwealth and the University of Kentucky."

The President continued by highlighting the academic success of the student-athletes including 16 straight semesters with a 3.0 GPA or higher, which was reflected in every sport. The President acknowledged AD Barnhart's commitment to not only academic success, but career and life development across all of UK's athletic programs. The President highlighted two examples of this career development with softball team member Bailey Vick, who was crowned the 2020 SEC Softball Scholar-Athlete of the Year, which is the highest award the SEC gives and only the third time it has been awarded to a Wildcat in UK's history. The President also

acknowledged swimming and dive team member Asia Seidt, who received the 2019-20 SEC H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award.

The President shared his appreciation of AD Barnhart for his leadership and collaboration, sighting the conversion of the Nutter Fieldhouse football training facility into a 400-bed field hospital to aid in the coronavirus pandemic response. “It was another example of the rich collaboration, partnership, and the spirit of cooperation that Mitch has made possible through his leadership.”

The President discussed the cancelled tournaments and games affected by COVID-19 including the SEC Men’s Basketball tournament, NCAA Tournament, and the National Rifle Championship UK was hosting that spring. “Hopes of so many of our student-athletes who planned to compete at the highest levels – their hopes were dashed.” The President applauded AD Barnhart and his team for putting UK’s student-athletics first as campus pivoted to online instruction. “We have many challenges in college athletics today, and it is gratifying and assuring to hear from those around the country how fortunate we are to have Mitch and how college athletics is fortunate to have him to turn to for advice, wisdom, and counsel during challenging times.”

Chair Melanson thanked the President and introduced AD Barnhart for his report.

E. Athletic Director’s Report

AD Barnhart thanked the President and Chair Melanson, as well as his staff. “It’s been a trying last three months for UK Athletics, just as it has been for everyone. We’re accustomed to having a set schedule. Down to the minute, we usually know when our next game is. Our student-athletes thrive on competition. Wins are joyful and losses are hurtful. But even when we lose, we’re at least in control. We can prepare. We can lay it all on the line until the clock shows zeroes.”

Director Barnhart detailed the 16 out of 22 programs immediately affected by COVID-19 including the track and rifle teams who saw their seasons end on the eve of nationals; the basketball teams, gymnastics team, and swimming and diving teams missed out on their postseason; and spring sports seasons were cut short before the seasons heated up. “Our student-athletes handled it with grace and poise, recognizing they were playing an important role in our country’s response to this pandemic.”

AD Barnhart discussed how the department had to reinvent operations. “Our priority, as always, is the health and well-being of our student-athletes. We made sure they got home safely. We helped them get set up for virtual learning, which was an incredible effort by our Center for Academic and Tutorial Services (CATS) staff, and it’s been amazing to see our student-athletes respond academically.” Director Barnhart detailed some academic achievements including:

- 16 straight semesters, or eight years, with a 3.0 GPA for the department and a 3.534 spring GPA – the highest ever in school history.
- 75 Wildcats graduated, giving us 96 graduates during this academic year alone. Included in that group is UK football trailblazer Wilbur Hackett and two-time men’s basketball national champion Nazr Mohammed, who graduated through the Cawood Ledford Post-Eligibility Program.
- A total of 66 Wildcats earned a place on the 2020 Winter Sports SEC Academic Honor Roll.

- Passing marks in the NCAA Academic Progress Rate (APR), with a school-record seven teams winning national awards.

AD Barnhart continued, “Meanwhile, we had to figure out how to keep our fans informed and connected to their favorite teams. We’ve done that with innovative social media content and a brand-new online only show called BBN Live. We also presented the CATSPY Awards virtually and held our first ever virtual 5K race with nearly 500 participants. All along, we’ve stayed on top of developments with the pandemic as we’ve planned for the return of student-athletes and, eventually, the return of competition. We have been so grateful for the leadership of President Capilouto and this Board along the way. Our partnership has never been stronger.”

AD Barnhart discussed the steps toward the student-athletes’ return to campus announcing that football players began voluntary work outs in early June and the volleyball team’s return in the coming days. “This is just step one of our roadmap to returning to some sense of normalcy, all in close collaboration with UK HealthCare and UK’s Emergency Operations Center.” Director Barnhart then recognized Executive Associate Athletics Director of Sports Medicine/Performance Jim Madaleno for all of his work toward the healthy return of UK’s student-athletes. Director Barnhart then detailed the screening processes in place including:

- Screening for all student-athletes before beginning voluntary workouts
- Daily screening for anyone entering a facility
- Acknowledgement of vulnerable populations
- Proactive education about COVID-19
- Single entry/single exit protocol
- Clear rules for the use of personal protective equipment

AD Barnhart continued, “While workouts continue, we are working as a department to prepare for games. We are working toward an on-time start to football season with fans in attendance. We are also keeping all contingencies in mind, but we will not engage in speculation. We’ve also grappled with the budget realities brought on by this situation to make sure we continue putting our core value of stewardship into practice as we prepare for the future. Along the way, we’ve assumed administrative responsibility for our cheerleading program. It’s a responsibility we take seriously because our cheerleading program has an unmatched tradition and means a great deal to this University and this community. We will be announcing a new leader for the program in short order. As we said last month, we’re not going to compromise when it comes to integrity and competitive excellence in our cheerleading program. We’re committing to providing the necessary guidance and oversight to ensure we’re doing things the right way. Our students deserve that.”

Director Barnhart stated, “Most importantly, we have done our best to support our student-athletes, especially our Black student-athletes, in the wake of the senseless tragedies of the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery and the pain that has followed. As I said in a message a couple weeks ago, members of our family are hurting. Our immediate response to that hurt has been to listen to, empathize with, and empower our student-athletes. Our path forward as a nation and as an athletics department is uncertain, but I believe in the greater good of people and in the power of sports to unite. It’s with that in mind that we commit to playing whatever small role we can in finding a path forward. A path of justice and equality. I have tasked our Deputy Athletics Director, DeWayne Peevy, with leading a committee to address issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. It’s important work for that group, but we all have a responsibility to play our part. I can’t remember a more challenging time for our nation and for

college sports. But there isn't a place I would rather be than right here, and there isn't a group of people I would rather work with than the student-athletes, coaches, and staff who so proudly represent this great University."

AD Barnhart provided a budget introduction to the Committee that they were preparing to receive from Executive Associate Athletics Director Melissa Gleason. "Our staff and coaches have worked incredibly hard and Melissa Gleason will share details on our proposed budget, but considering these unique times I wanted to spend a few moments talking to you about how we got here. We know we have challenges ahead of us. We've tried to position ourselves to overcome them in building this budget. The budget represents reality as we know it in this moment: We are preparing for games to be played as scheduled without attendance restrictions. We do expect fan behavior and purchasing decisions to be affected regardless."

Director Barnhart continued, "We are forecasting a 15% drop in football and men's basketball revenue. We think that's reasonable, as we are at an 80% renewal rate for 2020 football season tickets. When we set out to make those cuts, we had one core goal in mind: We did not want to negatively impact our people. What I mean by that is we did not want to cut or compromise when it comes to student-athlete welfare. We also did not make cuts to our staff. Removing those things, as well as contractual obligations, leaves approximately one-third of our budget for day-to-day operational expenses. From that part of our budget, we've cut about 17%. That requires sacrifice, but it's necessary sacrifice. We take our core value of stewardship seriously. We also know we live in a world that changes every day. You're not going to see us speculating publicly about those changes, but don't take that to mean we're not planning. If we are called to adjust our budget further down the road, we will be ready to do that."

F. Business Items

Chair Melanson thanked Director Barnhart and introduced Executive Associate Athletics Director Melissa Gleason for the financial reports.

Ms. Gleason began by discussing the quarterly statement ending March 31, 2020, and detailed the schedule of unrestricted funds revenue showing the current operating budget that flows through to the final NCAA Report. This statement shows the day to day operations. "Revenues were slightly down from the previous year due to COVID-19, but the expenses were down the same percentage (6%). The reduction in expenses has continued in the past two and a half months so while revenue may be reduced, we expect to still meet budget."

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to approve the interim financial report for March 31, 2020. Trustee Webb moved approval, and Trustee Grant seconded the motion. It carried without dissent.

Ms. Gleason continued by presenting the Athletics Department Budget for 2020-21 and reviewed the budget process and adjusted budget due to COVID-19. She described the process of taking the current operating budget, without camps, and deducting everything that was not negotiable including: salaries, benefits, scholarships, and other obligations. After adjusting for those items, the adjusted operating budget is \$44.667 million.

Ms. Gleason and Director Barnhart shared additional details including:

- Some salaries increased due to post FY20 budget contractual changes primarily in football with two new full-time trainers and new training fellows. The increases were offset by a 5% decrease in the 403b contribution.
- Slight scholarship increase. Spring sports seniors are eligible to return for another year due to their cancelled seasons.
- Ticket and K Fund revenue decreased because of purchasing decision changes by consumers due to COVID-19. K Fund gifts received in previous years not utilized will be used this year to offset COVID-19 challenges.
- Expense reductions due to the decrease of home football games in 2020, eight verses seven; decreases in one-time costs for SEC Network infrastructure purchased in the previous year; and recruiting and staff travel decreases because of travel restrictions and meetings being held virtually.
- 5.7% of the expense budget is direct transferred back to campus and 12.5% is in the form of scholarship payments.
- Capital budget revenue exceeded budget in FY20 and the Department expects to receive similar gifts in FY21.

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to approve the Athletics Department Budget for 2020-21. Trustee Bowen moved approval, and Trustee Grant seconded the motion. The motion carried without dissent.

G. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Katie Hardwick
Athletics Committee Secretary