

Minutes of the University Athletics Committee
University of Kentucky
Monday, December 14, 2020

The University Athletics Committee of the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees met on Monday, December 14, 2020, via Zoom webinar.

I. Meeting Opened

Trustee David Melanson, chair of the University Athletics Committee, called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. Chair Melanson asked Katie Hardwick to call the roll.

II. Roll Call

The following members of the University Athletics Committee were present: Board Members Claude A. "Skip" Berry, III, Joe Bowen, Ray Daniels, David Melanson and Rachel Webb; Community Advisory Members Vickie Bell and Wells Bullard; and Faculty Athletics Representative Joe Fink.

III. Chairs Report

Chair Melanson introduced the newest member of the Committee, Community Advisory Member Wells Bullard, who replaced retiring Community Advisory Member Paula Hanson. Chair Melanson recognized Ms. Hanson for her service to the Committee, as well as the entire university.

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2020, meeting. Trustee Webb moved for approval. Trustee Bowen seconded the motion and it carried without dissent.

Chair Melanson introduced President Capilouto for remarks.

IV. President's Remarks

The president echoed Chair Melanson's remarks and added his gratitude for Paula Hanson who served on the University Athletics Committee for two terms. The president then welcomed Wells Bullard and recognized her outstanding role as CEO of Bullard and her family tradition of supporting UK Athletics.

The president continued by reflecting on the preparation over the summer for the upcoming season when there was so much uncertainty. "We reopened two entities at UK, our health care enterprise and UK Athletics. We learned from that experience and improved the ways we keep student-athletes and patients safe, which further informed our campus." The president thanked Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart and his team for being key partners.

The president pointed out that the student-athletes were being tested three times weekly and continued to comply with the protocols. "Our student-athletes wanted to return to the field of play and represent the University of Kentucky and they did everything in their power to stay safe and comply with these unfortunate circumstances. I appreciate the work that Mitch and his staff are doing by providing memorable experiences for the student-athletes who are representing the University of Kentucky with grit and grace."

Chair Melanson thanked the president and introduced Athletics Director Barnhart for his report.

V. Athletics Director's Report

Athletics Director Barnhart thanked the president and Chair Melanson and recognized retiring Committee member, Paula Hanson, and welcomed newly appointed member Wells Bullard. "Since our last meeting in September, we have resumed game action while continuing health protocols set forth by the NCAA, Southeastern Conference, University of Kentucky, Center for Disease Control and Kentucky Public Health." AD Barnhart reported that an overwhelming majority – nearly unanimous – number of UK's student-athletes wanted to continue their athletic and academic participation as normally as possible. He stated the implementation of protocols by the medical team, athletics trainers and cleaning staff has worked very well in keeping the student-athletes and staff safe and reported the positivity rates for COVID-19 have been less than the public average.

AD Barnhart continued his report, "There has been much attention around the country on the number of games or events that have not been played but it also bears recognizing the successes we have had in being able to practice and compete with minimal disruption to our schedules. Thanks to the patient, thoughtful approach by the Southeastern Conference, the SEC Medical Task Force, and by Dr. Capilouto and our own campus leadership, we began playing football six weeks after classes began and we were able to play all 10 football games in the allotted 11-week period. Assuming that all games are played as scheduled on Saturday, the SEC will have completed 69 of the 70 regular-season games that were scheduled."

AD Barnhart continued by highlighting some fall sport accomplishments including:

- The football team won four games, including the first win at Tennessee in 36 years. The players will return to campus to begin preparation for a bowl game, which will be announced on Sunday, December 20th.
- Football coaches are preparing for Signing Day and Coach Stoops is in the process of hiring three assistant coach positions.
- The volleyball, men's and women's soccer, and men's and women's cross-country teams competed with reduced schedules and will resume in the spring.
- Volleyball went 8-0 and finished ranked No. 2 nationally among the teams that played.
- Men's soccer went 5-1 and was ranked in the top five during their time of competition.
- Women's and men's cross country finished fourth and fifth, respectively, at the SEC Championships. Individually, Jenna Gearing finished second in the women's race and Matt Duvall was named SEC Men's Freshman of the Year.
- The men's and women's golf and tennis teams competed with reduced schedules as they prepare for their traditional spring seasons.
- Men's golf individual victory by Alex Goff at The Blessings Invitational in September. Goff won while carrying the bag of the late Cullan Brown, his teammate who died in August.

AD Barnhart continued by discussing winter sports including:

- Men's and women's basketball, men's and women's swimming and rifle have begun their competitions.

- Dealing with an inexperienced team, even by Coach Calipari's standards, men's basketball has gotten off to a challenging start. Historically Coach Cal's teams have shown significant improvement as the season progresses and UK Athletics is looking for that to continue again this season.
- There was a major change in women's basketball with the retirement of Coach Matthew Mitchell in November. As UK's all-time winningest coach, Coach Mitchell led his teams through many of the great moments in the history of Kentucky basketball, with more than 300 wins, an SEC championship and numerous NCAA Tournament appearances. "He has been a great ambassador for the University of Kentucky, on and off the court, and he brought an energy and style of play that made it fun for players and fans alike. Matthew, Jenna and their children always will be part of the Wildcat family and we wish them the very best as they enter the next stage of their lives."
- Kyra Elzy was named the interim women's basketball head coach and Coach Elzy has the team off to a 6-0 start and top-10 national ranking, including a win over No. 13-ranked Indiana. AD Barnhart reported that earlier that day it was decided that the word interim would be removed from her title and she will now be the women's basketball head coach. "We look forward to celebrating many, many wins with Kyra and her staff."
- The top-10 ranked women's swimming and diving team is undefeated heading into their next meet at Alabama. The team has been led by Riley Gaines, who has broken two school records, and the team has 19 individual times in the nation's top 20 so far.
- The No. 25 ranked men's swimming and diving team has placed 21 individual times in the nation's top 50 so far.
- The rifle team finished fall competition undefeated, including a school-record score of 4,735 in a win over Murray State. Student-athlete Mary Tucker had an NCAA record perfect score by shooting a perfect 600 in air rifle and broke a school record with a 1,195 aggregate.

AD Barnhart continued by discussing the resumption of spring sports and reported all 22 sports will be in action during the winter and spring, adding that this was an unprecedented strain on athletics facilities and staff.

AD Barnhart highlighted team accomplishments off the field including:

- Asia Seidt was named the NCAA Woman of the Year, inclusive of all female athletes across Divisions I, II and III. AD Barnhart added that more than 200,000 women compete in NCAA sports each year and the number one female student-athlete for this year is quite an honor.
- Despite the challenges of a hybrid system of in-person and online classes, UK Athletics continues to thrive academically.
- In November, UK Athletics set school records for the NCAA Graduation Success Rate (GSR) and the Federal Graduation Rate. UK has broken or tied the school record for NCAA GSR for 16 straight years, every year since the statistic was first formulated in 2005.
- Twenty-two Wildcats graduated in December, giving UK Athletics 98 graduates during the 2020 calendar year.
- Included in these graduates were four Cats who graduated through the Post-Eligibility Program, including 1996 men's basketball national champion Derek

Anderson (1996-97); Sean Hjelle (2015-17), star pitcher of UK's 2017 baseball regional champion; Steve Johnson (2006-07), who caught the game-winning touchdown passes in wins over No. 1 LSU and No. 9 Louisville in 2007; and cornerback Derrick Tatum (1999-2002), who played in the 1999 Music City Bowl and helped the Cats to a seven-win season in 2002.

- In addition, two current football players, Drake Jackson and Sawyer Smith, completed master's degrees.

AD Barnhart continued by reporting the fall semester composite grade-point average (GPA) of 3.233 for all competing athletes. "It is UK Athletics' 17th consecutive semester of a department-wide GPA of 3.0 or better." He stated 380 student-athletes had a 3.0 or better, including 109 who achieved a perfect 4.0. Baseball had the highest male sport with a team-record 3.61 GPA while gymnastics led the women with a 3.72 team GPA.

Additionally, AD Barnhart updated the Committee on the NBA Draft. "Kentucky was well represented in the NBA Draft. Three Wildcats were selected, including Tyrese Maxey and Immanuel Quickley in the first round. The Wildcats have had more top-10 picks, more lottery selections and more first-round picks in the John Calipari era than any other team in the country", adding that UK has had multiple first-round selections in every draft during Calipari's term. AD Barnhart reported that six additional NCAA championship events are coming to Lexington from 2024-26, in the sports of men's basketball, men's and women's track and field, women's golf, gymnastics and rifle.

AD Barnhart concluded his report by recognizing Kentucky offensive line coach John Schlarman who died November 12 after a two-year battle with cancer. Schlarman's last game was October 17, when he was presented the game ball following UK's win at Tennessee. He was honored with a memorial service at Kroger Field. "At his core, he was a teacher and a professor. He was a teacher of opportunity, of courage, tenacity, toughness, optimism, hope, loyalty and honor. As a coach, he provided hundreds of young men opportunity while protecting and teaching them along the way. To listen to his players, it became clear he was more than a technician – he was a teacher and builder of men."

Chair Melanson thanked Director Barnhart and asked for any questions.

VI. Business Items

Chair Melanson introduced Executive Associate Athletics Director Melissa Gleason to review the Athletics Department Interim Financial Report for September 30, 2020.

Review of the Athletics Department Interim Financial Report for September 30, 2020

Executive Associate Athletics Director Gleason reviewed the Athletics Department's financial statements and the schedule of unrestricted funds. She pointed out that she typically compares the total revenues and expenses with the previous year, but due to the pandemic the revenues are vastly different than the previous year. "As of September, we had not played a home football game or sold a men's basketball ticket." In addition, she pointed out the expense side looks different, as well, and explained she and AD Barnhart would review the financials in more detail during the mid-year athletics update.

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to approve the Interim Financial Report for September 30, 2020. Trustee Bowen moved for approval. Trustee Webb seconded the motion and it carried without dissent.

VII. Mid-year Athletics Update

Chair Melanson introduced Athletics Director Barnhart for the Mid-Year Athletics Update presentation.

AD Barnhart discussed the enduring budget principles of the Athletics Department including, 1.) student-athlete welfare, making sure things are done in a safe way that benefits their experience; 2.) competitive excellence, that the student-athletes are competing in the most difficult league in America; 3.) academic success, student-athletes continuing to graduate at high levels and taking their places in society to accomplish great things; 4.) staff retention, representing the Wildcats well; and 5.) facility safety, pointing out the adjustments that needed to be made in order to function during a pandemic.

Director Barnhart then reviewed a historical summary of the operating budget from 2011 through 2021 and detailed the operating revenues that account for the budget. He then pivoted to Executive Associate Athletics Director Gleason to explain how the budget was assembled.

Associate Director Gleason explained the steps that were made to modify the budget including revenue, mandatory expense adjustments, operating budget reduction and fund balance transfer. She continued by discussing the subsequent changes made to the FY2020-21 budget and highlighted the examples of approved capacity at Kroger Field originally set at 85 percent but decreased to 20 percent, and Rupp Arena capacity set at 85 percent but decreased to 15 percent.

Associate Director Gleason continued by discussing projected expense savings including recruiting and scholarship savings and projected expense increases due to COVID-19 with testing and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). She discussed the estimated significant revenue changes including ticket sales, contributions and third-party relationships.

Associate Director Gleason discussed the ticket sale history from 2010-11 through 2020-21 and specifically highlighted football and men's basketball tickets, where the majority of the decrease occurred. She analyzed the data based on the number of games and quantity of tickets, rather than the revenue from the ticket sales, which illustrated a drastic decrease due to fewer scheduled games and venue capacity restraints.

Athletics Director Barnhart discussed the continual evaluation process for the FY2020-21 budget shortfalls and the six steps the department continues to take by 1.) determining adjusted revenue projections; 2.) determining adjusted expense projections, and 3.) continue to reevaluate these projections monthly. AD Barnhart recognized Associate Athletics Director Gleason and her team for continuously highlighting places where the department can become more efficient. AD Barnhart continued by highlighting the remaining steps used to resolve the revenue shortfall including 4.) preparing an updated philanthropy plan; 5.) continuing to reduce expenses, and 6.) adjust fund balance use projections.

In conclusion, AD Barnhart stated the priorities remain the same with student-athlete welfare, competitive excellence, academic success, staff retention and facility safety. He stated the Athletics Department is projecting a 23.9 percent reduction in revenue and no change in

projected expenses. “I have told our staff all along our goal is to sustain our family and our programs. It is critically important to what we are doing, and we do not want our people to worry about how they will take care of their families. Additionally, our student-athletes are counting on opportunities we provide them at the University of Kentucky, and we feel a responsibility to sustain both our family and programs.”

VIII. Other Business and Adjournment

Chair Melanson applauded AD Barnhart and his staff and stated, “As chair of this Committee and someone who has been here almost 17 years, every time this campus has needed a boost UK Athletics has been there. Whether it is the Jacobs Science Building or the Singletary and Robinson Scholarship programs, which the Athletics Department helps fund, they have always been there and I know the Big Blue Nation will be there for them. I want to applaud Director Barnhart and his entire team for their commitment to UK’s staff, to our folks that are working out there behind the scenes that work late in the evening, they work on weekends, they have young families, they have kids in school, they are juggling teaching those kids, and to see you committed to preserving those opportunities to keep working and keep families safe and whole is a wonderful thing. I applaud you for that leadership.”

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Respectively submitted,



Katie Hardwick

University Athletics Committee Secretary