

Minutes of the University Athletics Committee  
University of Kentucky  
Thursday, September 9, 2021

The University Athletics Committee of the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees met on Thursday, September 9, 2021, in the Gatton Student Center, Harris Ballroom.

I. Meeting Opened

Trustee David Melanson, chair of the University Athletics Committee, called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 Wilbur Hackett and Wells Bullard; Faculty Athletics Representative Joe Fink; and Community Advisory Member Vickie Bell attended via Zoom.

III. Chairs Report

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 16, 2021, meeting. Trustee Bowen moved approval of the minutes, and Trustee Webb seconded the motion. The motion carried without dissent.

Chair Melanson introduced President Capilouto for remarks.

IV. President's Remarks

The president began by reflecting 10 years prior when he arrived at UK and met with Dr. Lee Todd. They discussed athletics and the vision Director Barnhart had for Olympic sports, or as some refer to as non-revenue sports. President Capilouto pointed out the incredible gains and successes in these sports and the people who make this possible. He referred to Student Trustee Hawse's comments earlier in the day sharing pride for UK's student-athletes and the recognition they received by the university.

The president remarked, "This is not something you can think of two years in advance, or three years in advance, it takes time, a vision and nurturing that Director Barnhart and his team afford students through participation in college athletics that will echo for years to come."

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 stated that it was great to be back with UK's fans in the stands. He acknowledged the university and the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Medical Taskforce for their guidance as the campus finds its way through the most recent COVID-19 variant, providing a sense of normalcy for the student-athletes.

Director Barnhart highlighted summer achievements including the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) Directors Cup all-sports standings for the 2020-21 school year. Among 358 Division I schools, Kentucky finished 12th in the nation which is the third-highest finish in school history, the fourth year in a row in the top 20 and the ninth year in a row in the top 30.

Director Barnhart reported 20 current and former UK athletes competed in the Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo and brought home a UK Athletics record 10 medals, including:

- Will Shaner with a gold medal in the 10-meter air rifle.
- Jasmine Camacho-Quinn and Kendra Harrison finished first and second in the 100-meter hurdles, earning gold and silver, respectively.
  - Sydney McLaughlin set the world record while winning the 400-meter hurdles; Sydney also won gold in the 4x400-meter relay, becoming the first Wildcat in school history to win two gold medals.
  - Bam Adebayo, Devin Booker and Keldon Johnson brought home gold medals for the men's basketball championship.
  - Mary Tucker earned silver in the mixed air rifle event.
  - Javianne Oliver took home silver in the 4x100-meter relay.

Additionally, Director Barnhart recognized two of UK's medical school students, Lexington native Lee Kiefer and her husband Gerek Meinhardt, who earned gold and bronze, respectively, in the sport of fencing.

Director Barnhart continued, "Just when we thought all the medals had been won, along came one of our current women's golfers, Jensen Castle, in the United States Amateur Championship. Jensen put together what is arguably one of the most improbable performances in athletics history. Prior to the championship, Jensen had not played in several weeks because of a stress fracture in her ribs. Frankly, she did not even pack a lot of clothes because she was not sure she would make the initial cut of stroke play. After the two days of stroke play, she was among 12 golfers tied for the last two spots to reach the match-play portion of the tournament. Jensen and a UK teammate, Marissa Wenzler, birdied the first playoff hole to win the 12-for-2 playoff and advance to match play."

"Now seeded No. 63 in a 64-person tournament, Jensen defeated the No. 2 seed in the first round. Then, she won again, and again, and again to reach the semifinals where she was matched against the national player of the year in collegiate golf. She was behind by two holes with only three to play, but she rallied to tie on the 18th hole, then won on the first playoff hole."

“In the finals, she fell behind early. Fortunately, the championship is a grueling day of two rounds, 36 total holes. Characteristically, she again came from behind, taking the lead in the last round, then holding on to win by one hole – all the time proudly wearing her Kentucky blue. Jensen’s win qualified her for the USA Curtis Cup Team, where she came from behind to defeat the Great Britain/Ireland team in late August. Jensen also has earned invitations to the 2021 Women’s British Open, the 2022 US Women’s Open and the 2022 U.S. Amateur.”

Director Barnhart highlighted several Wildcats who continue to compete professionally in the NBA, major league baseball and the NFL including Devin Booker who led the Phoenix Suns to the NBA finals and all six of the Wildcats who were selected in the 2021 NFL Draft earned a spot on their respective teams.

AD Barnhart continued by highlighting the following Sports Roundup:

- Football got off to a good start with a win over the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM). The Wildcats have a big game this week with the conference opener at home against Missouri.
- Volleyball is ranked No. 8 in the nation and has a 5-1 record. The team recently unveiled the national championship banner in Memorial Coliseum and we appreciate Dr. Capilouto for making time to be there, along with SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey, who came in to recognize the league’s first national championship in the sport of volleyball.
- Men’s Soccer is coming off a win at Louisville, improving to 3-0-1 on the season.
- Women’s Soccer is off to its best start in recent years with a 3-1-2 record heading into their game at Eastern Kentucky.
- The men’s and women’s cross-country teams began their season last week at the Missouri Opener. The UK men won the meet, with Ethan Kern winning the individual championship and being named SEC Runner of the Week.
- Our winter and spring sports are beginning practice and fall competitions as applicable.

Director Barnhart reported academic accomplishments including 111 Wildcats earning a place on the SEC Spring Sports Academic Honor Roll with baseball, men’s golf and women’s golf leading the league with the most representatives in their sports. Additionally, 101 Wildcats were named to the SEC First-Year Academic Honor Roll, which was the third-most of all league schools. Baseball and gymnastics led the league with the most representatives in their sports.

During the 2020-21 school year, UK had nine student-athletes earn the official Academic All-America award bestowed by the College Sports Information Directors of America, which breaks the school record of seven Academic All-Americans during the 2015-16 school year. Director Barnhart recognized the Academic All-Americans for 2020-21:

- T.J. Collett in baseball
- Renee Abernathy and Kayla Kowalik in softball

- Josh Sobota from men’s track and field
- Celera Barnes, Molly Leppelmeier and Abby Steiner in women’s track and field
- Gabby Curry and Madison Lilley in volleyball

AD Barnhart continued his report by highlighting student-athletes including Madison Lilley who continues to be recognized for leading UK’s volleyball team to the national championship, winning the Honda Award, signifying National Player of the Year in volleyball, and was voted SEC Female Athlete of the Year, covering all sports sponsored by the SEC; T.J. Collett was named the Senior CLASS Award winner for the sport of baseball, which recognizes the top senior in the country with all-around achievements on the field, in the classroom and the community; and Kayla Kowalik of softball who won the Johnny Bench Award as National Catcher of the Year.

In closing, AD Barnhart announced the expansion of UK’s family of varsity sports offerings. “UK Athletics has an ongoing process for researching and reviewing current and emerging women’s sports. As a result of those efforts we are happy to announce that UK is adding a varsity program in the rapidly growing sport of stunt.” Director Barnhart continued by explaining the competitive head-to-head, four-quarter game between two teams that focuses on the technical and athletic aspects of cheer. The games last approximately an hour and will take place in Memorial Coliseum.

Director Barnhart continued, “It is important to identify sports that address the interest and abilities of young women on our campus that demonstrate great growth potential. Stunt is currently one of the fastest-growing sports at the high school level and we felt it would generate the support and following that our other women’s programs enjoy.” He discussed the strong cheer culture at the University of Kentucky, in the community and across the Commonwealth exclaiming that this competitive varsity sport provides another opportunity for UK women’s athletics to excel.

Chair Melanson thanked Director Barnhart and opened the floor for questions. Trustee Bowen asked what the Athletic Department’s greatest need or challenge currently was. Director Barnhart explained the need for additional facilities for the track and field team due to the heavy usage of Nutter Field House.

#### VI. Other Business

With no further questions, Chair Melanson reminded the Committee that the full Athletics Report could be found on Directors Desk and asked if there was any other business to come before the Committee.

#### VII. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Respectively submitted,  
Katie Hardwick