

Minutes of the University Athletics Committee
University of Kentucky
Thursday, September 15, 2022

The University Athletics Committee of the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees met on Thursday, September 15, 2022, 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 6:07 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, Todd Case, David Melanson and Rachel Webb; Community Advisory Members Vickie Bell, Wells Bullard and Wilbur Hackett; and Faculty Athletics Representative Joe Fink. Committee member Ray Daniels was absent.

III. Chairs Report

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 16, 2022, meeting. Trustee Webb moved approval of the minutes, and Trustee Case seconded the motion. The motion carried without dissent.

Chair Melanson recognized President Capilouto, who did not have a report and introduced Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart for his report.

IV. Athletics Director's Report

"It is good to be back with you as we begin a new school year. In welcoming the largest freshman class in school history, we feel the energy on campus and are striving to contribute to that enthusiasm," Director Barnhart stated.

Before turning his attention to the new year, Director Barnhart wrapped up the 2021-22 school year.

- UK finished No. 9 in the country, among 358 schools, in the Directors' Cup national all-sports standings. This marked the highest standing in school history, breaking the school record of 10th place finish in 2016-17.
- UK won a national championship in rifle and conference championships in volleyball, men's soccer, women's basketball and rifle.
- All-America honors were earned by 54 athletes and 81 athletes were named all-conference.

- UK had two national athletes of the year in their sports – Abby Steiner in women’s track and Oscar Tshiebwe in men’s basketball.
- Academic accomplishments included:
 - 20 consecutive semesters of 3.0 department-wide grade-point average
 - 390 athletes were named to the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Academic Honor Roll
 - Seven Academic All-Americans
 - Four Conference Scholar-Athletes of the Year
 - Four National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) Post-Graduate Scholarships
- Community service honors were earned by 15 athletes.
- 15 athletes were selected in the professional sports drafts.

News from the Summer

- UK Athletics 2022 Hall of Fame was announced in July, featuring Jim Andrews from men’s basketball, Derek Bryant of baseball, Dezerea Bryant from women’s track, Keenan Burton of football, diving coach Mike Lyden and Kelsey Nunley-Moore of softball. The new class will be honored in November.
- Eleven Wildcats competed in the World Track and Field Championships, with Sydney McLaughlin and Abby Steiner each bringing home two gold medals and Jasmine Camacho-Quinn earning bronze.
- Baseball had six players selected in the major league draft. Three current Cats, Mag Cotto, Nolan McCarthy and Emilien Pitre, were named all-stars in their summer leagues.
- Two women’s golfers, Laney Frye and Jensen Castle, competed in the U.S. Amateur, with Laney winning medalist honors during stroke play.
- Two men’s golfers, Campbell Kremer and Garrett Wood, qualified and competed in the U.S. Amateur.
- In softball, Kayla Kowalik played for Team USA and Alexia Lacatena led Italy to the bronze medal of the European Championship.
- Kyndal Knight earned a silver medal and assistant coach Julia Vincent received a bronze medal at the U.S. Diving Championship.
- Rhyne Howard earned Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) Rookie of the Year honors and participated in the Team USA Training Camp.
- UK’s men’s basketball team capped the summer with four wins during the trip to the Bahamas, showing outstanding potential for the coming season.

Fall Sports Roundup

- Football got off to a good start with a home win over Miami of Ohio, followed by a come-from-behind victory at Florida.
 - The Wildcats are ranked in the top 10 in the nation for the first time since 2007 and return home to host Youngstown State.
 - Congratulations to Coach Mark Stoops, as the win at Florida was his 61st victory, breaking the school record of 60 wins by Paul “Bear” Bryant. He will be honored before the next home game.
- Volleyball is ranked No. 13 in the nation and has a 5-2 record. UK has two wins over ranked opponents and both of UK’s losses have come against opponents currently ranked in the top 25. The Wildcats face yet another ranked foe as No. 2-ranked Nebraska comes to Memorial Coliseum.
- Men’s Soccer, ranked No. 5 in the nation, is 4-0 on the season with one tie. The Wildcats moved to the Sun Belt Conference this year and have an inaugural league contest at home against Marshall.
- Under the leadership of new coach Troy Fabiano, Women’s Soccer is off to its best start since 2015 with a 7-1 record. The Wildcats open SEC action at home against Ole Miss.
- The men’s and women’s cross country teams began their season at the Eastern Kentucky Opener, with the Wildcat women winning the meet and the men placing second. They return to action at North Alabama.
- UK’s winter and spring sports are beginning practice and fall competitions as applicable.

Off the Field

Director Barnhart stated, “First and foremost on our minds have been the floods that ravaged the eastern part of the state. As we did in December following the tornados in Western Kentucky, I am proud of how UK Athletics responded as the Wildcats again supported our brothers and sisters of the Commonwealth.” He continued by reporting the Department’s response:

- Men’s basketball open practice and telethon raised more than three million dollars.
- Football and volleyball teams, along with several athletes from additional teams, helped with service projects.
- UK Athletics staff members went to work in Perry County, as the Wildcats again supported their brothers and sisters of the Commonwealth.

Director Barnhart continued, “As we said in December, we would not forget the people of Western Kentucky, and we have not. Just before the floods hit, Coach Calipari,

the men's basketball players and staff, and UK's friends at Kroger met the fans during a five-city tour that raised more money and supplies for the ongoing rebuilding effort in the western part of our state. It is appropriate to mention here that Coach Cal has been chosen for the Jefferson Award for Outstanding Public Service in Sports and will receive the award in November. The honor is bestowed by the "Multiplying Good" organization which has been presenting the award for more than 50 years."

Director Barnhart announced that with the completion of the first year of student-athletes capitalizing on their name, image and likeness (NIL), 176 student-athletes reported a total of 1,329 transactions. "Student-athletes have taken NIL and run with it in innovative and exciting ways. We are proud of our young people who have done the hard work to benefit in this new era. We are also gratified that so many local and national businesses see our student-athletes as attractive ambassadors for their brands."

"We are strong advocates for our student-athletes embracing NIL opportunities and have been assisting in every way we can. Toward that goal, we have established the "BBNIL Exchange," a portal that simplifies the process in which businesses can connect with student-athletes to explore, negotiate and make NIL deals. As part of the annual orientation session for all student-athletes, the Department brought in Maria Taylor from NBC Sports to discuss her journey as a student-athlete and tips on how UK's Wildcats can succeed as a student, succeed as an athlete and develop their personal brands during their collegiate years." Adding that Ms. Taylor was a dual athlete at Georgia playing basketball and volleyball and had worked her way through the SEC Network, ESPN and is now with NBC Sports."

For the first time this semester, UK athletes will be able to earn academic awards because of an NCAA rule change that permits the university to provide academic achievement awards in addition to tuition, room and board, cost of attendance, supplemental meals and snacks, and athletic awards such as rings, trophies and letter winner gifts.

"Last spring, I challenged our staff to deliver criteria for student-athletes to earn the new financial awards while honoring our dual purpose of education and competition. How can we put ourselves, and our student-athletes in the best position to win championships while setting them up for lives of meaning and purpose after graduation? It is through that lens that we established a baseline for earning funds that are fair, accessible and attainable. Student-athletes earn academic awards by achieving a minimum GPA and returning to their team or graduating by remaining in good standing at the university. Additionally, they must attend two in-person workshops, and complete three concise online courses through iGRAD, the university's online learning partner, each semester."

Director Barnhart discussed the newly announced "UK Invests" program and stated that building on years of commitment to financial education which the Athletics Department had been previously doing for many years, they will roll out "UK Invests" in a manner that is a first of its kind in the country, giving UK's student-athletes an opportunity to learn about personal finances and the importance of saving and investing.

“In October following the completion of the online financial education courses, our student-athletes will have an opportunity to open personal investment accounts. We are proud that our student-athletes, who are influential student leaders at our university, will have the chance to be the first of this important step within the University of Kentucky's mission to advance Kentucky, to begin to change our state today so that it is healthier, wealthier and wiser tomorrow.”

Director Barnhart continued by recognizing two figures in UK Athletics history who recently passed away including Press Whelan who was a student-athlete and head coach for UK's cross country and track and field teams. As an athlete, he was a three-time SEC champion and part of SEC championship teams as an athlete and head coach. He also played a key role in the integration of the Southeastern Conference and remained beloved by his athletes.

Additionally, Director Barnhart recognized Guy Morriss who was a part of UK football for six years, including two seasons as head coach. He was both liked and respected by the players, who responded to his fair, straightforward approach with their best efforts. His time at UK featured some of the best players and most exciting moments in the university's history.

“We are thankful for their contributions to our history and our condolences are with their families and friends.”

Chair Melanson thanked Director Barnhart and without any questions from the Committee, asked him to continue with the business item for the Committee's review.

FCR 1 Acceptance of Pledge

Director Barnhart recognized the many transformational gifts to Athletics during his time from Joe and Kelly Craft including the Joe Craft Center which serves as the practice facility for both men's and our women's basketball teams, as well as the administrative and operational home for many of UK's teams and those that support them. More recently Mr. Craft provided a gift that made possible a Joe Craft Football Facility. “This facility has been critical to the recent success of UK's football program and the positive trajectory that is ongoing today.”

“Today's gift of \$7.5 million underscores the Crafts commitment to UK's football program while supporting more than 100 student-athletes that compete in UK's track and field program. The gift will go a long way in our plans to renovate the Nutter Field House to best serve our football program, to build a new indoor track and full training facility on the site where Cliff Haggin stadium used to be.”

“I am excited about what this gift means to our football and track programs, but equally excited about how the Crafts have asked us to recognize this gift. Tomorrow, President Capilouto will recommend to the Board that we honor the desire of the donors by renaming the new indoor track and field facility the Jim Green Indoor Track and Field

Center. The new name, once approved, will highlight the groundbreaking career of UK alumnus, Jim Green, the first African American student-athlete to graduate from the University of Kentucky in 1971.”

Director Barnhart continued by recognizing the Eminence, Kentucky native, who while in high school excelled in football, basketball, baseball and track. Mr. Green broke state records in the 70-, 100-, 220- and 440-yard dashes. And after high school, he committed to competing at the University of Kentucky, in track and field. He became a three-time NCAA champion, once for the indoor 100-yard dash, and twice for the 60-yard dash. He earned All-America honors six times and won eight SEC individual events, including the indoor 60-yard dash (1968, 1971), outdoor 100-yard dash (1968, 1970, 1971) and outdoor 220-yard dash (1968, 1970, 1971).

“I am pleased that the facility will be named in honor of 1971’s fastest man in the world, Jim Green”, said Director Barnhart.

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to approve FCR 1. Trustee Berry moved approval, and Trustee Webb seconded the motion. The motion carried without dissent.

With no further discussion, Chair Melanson thanked Director Barnhart and urged the Committee to read the full Athletics Report which had been loaded to Directors Desk.

V. Other Business and Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectively submitted,



Katie Hardwick

University Athletics Committee Secretary