

Minutes of the University Athletics Committee
University of Kentucky
Thursday, September 14, 2023

The University Athletics Committee of the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees met on Thursday, September 14, 2023, 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 5:18 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 of Trustees Members Todd Case, Ray Daniels, David Melanson and Rachel Webb; Community Advisory Members Wells Bullard, via Zoom, and Vickie Bell who attended in person; and Faculty Athletics Representative Joe Fink. Trustee Skip Berry and Community Advisory Member Wilbur Hackett were absent.

III. Chairs Report

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2023, meeting. Trustee Webb moved approval of the minutes, and Trustee Case seconded the motion. The motion carried without dissent.

Chair Melanson introduced President Capilouto for remarks.

IV. President's Remarks

The President discussed the excitement of fall sports and the success of the football team. He also remarked on the disruptions in college sports in the courts and the courts of public opinion. "With all of that, I am enormously pleased that Director Mitch Barnhart has agreed to extend his tenure at the University of Kentucky. He brings decades of experience, knowledge and values that I think will be so important to us as we navigate these changing times."

Chair Melanson thanked President Capilouto and introduced Director Barnhart for his report.

V. Athletics Director's Report

Athletics Director Barnhart commented, "It is good to be back with you as we begin a new school year. As we, once again, welcome the largest freshman class in school history, we feel the energy on campus and are striving to contribute to that enthusiasm. Before we turn our attention to the new year, it is appropriate for us to wrap up the 2022-

23 school year.” Director Barnhart reported the following updates from the previous season.

- UK finished 18th in the country among the 363 Division I schools, marking the sixth consecutive year to finish in the top 20.
- The department finished the year with conference championships in volleyball, men’s soccer, rifle and men’s tennis.

Academic accomplishments include:

- 22 consecutive semesters of a 3.0 department-wide grade-point average.
- 167 graduates during the academic year, which is a school record; 19 of those students graduated with master’s degrees.
- 12 Academic All-Americans, which also is a school record; with a total of 12 ranked fourth in the nation among the 363 Division I institutions. This improves Kentucky’s all-time total to 143 Academic All-Americans, which ranks 18th all-time in Division I sports.
- 388 Southeastern Conference (SEC) Academic Honor Roll honors.
- Five graduates were recipients of National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Post-Graduate Scholarships.

News from the Summer:

- The 2023 class of the UK Athletics Hall of Fame was announced:
 - Robin Ewing Bodem, All-American gymnast.
 - Chris Chenault, one of UK’s all-time leading tacklers in football.
 - Danielle Galyer Day, national champion swimmer.
 - Dick Parsons, two-sport standout in basketball and baseball, including All-American honors in baseball; later became UK’s baseball head coach and longtime assistant basketball coach.
 - Rajon Rondo from men’s basketball, All-SEC player who went on to a 16-year career in the National Basketball Association (NBA).
 - Ryan Strieby, baseball All-American who led UK to the first SEC championship in that sport.
- The men’s basketball team served as the United States representatives at the GLOBL Jam international tournament held in Toronto. The team brought home the gold medal for the United States by winning all four games.
- The department welcomed three new head coaches during the summer:
 - Gator Todd for men’s golf
 - Shelley Jaudon for women’s tennis
 - Bret Lundgaard for swimming and diving
- Four UK golfers, Campbell Kremer and Solomon Petrie on the men’s side and Laney Frye and Jensen Castle from the women’s team, qualified for and competed in the U.S. Amateur Championships.
- 11 UK swimmers competed at the U.S. Nationals and Max Berg represented France at the World Aquatic Championships.

- Two baseball players, Reuben Church and Jackson Nove, were named all-stars in their summer leagues.
- Masai Russell completed her UK track career and ran for the United States in the World Championships.
- Kayla Kowalik completed her UK softball career and went on to earn Rookie of the Year honors in the Women's Professional Fastpitch League.
- Three baseball players and two men's basketball players were drafted and signed in their respective professional leagues.

Fall Sports Roundup

- Football is 2-0 on the season and hosts Akron on Saturday. The Wildcats begin conference play next week at Vanderbilt.
- Volleyball is ranked No. 21 in the nation, and by Sunday, the Wildcats will have played six ranked opponents, which will have them well-prepared to begin SEC play next week.
- Men's Soccer, ranked No. 19 in the nation, will begin Sun Belt Conference action 10 days from now.
- Women's Soccer has a 6-0-1 record, going undefeated in non-conference action for the first time in 16 years. The Wildcats open SEC action Friday night at Texas A&M.
- The men's and women's cross country teams begin their seasons Friday in Alabama.
- UK's winter and spring sports are beginning practice and fall competitions as applicable.
- Men's swimming, Levi Sandidge has become the first male swimmer in school history selected to the United States National Team and will represent the country during the 2023-24 competition cycle.

Additional Notes

- Tom Leach, UK's play-by-play announcer for football and men's basketball, along with UK women's sports pioneer Brigid DeVries, were enshrined in the Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame Tuesday night in Louisville.

Two major construction projects continue:

- The new indoor track and field building is expected to be completed by the end of the year. It will be an elite facility where world-class athletes will come to train, adding that UK women's track and field has three world record holders.
- The renovation of Memorial Coliseum continues. Hopes are to resume competition in that facility by this time next year. Because of this renovation volleyball, women's basketball and gymnastics teams will compete primarily in Rupp Arena until the project is completed, along with some events at Transylvania.

Director Barnhart concluded his report by highlighting football linebacker J.J. Weaver who joined forces with the Kentucky Center for Grieving Children and Families where he established a grief support group within UK Athletics called Perfect Fit Peer Support Group. Having faced a lack of available grief counseling when he experienced the loss of his father, Weaver took the initiative to ensure that others in a similar situation had access to the resources he had missed. Chair Melanson lauded the initiative and thanked Director Barnhart for his report.

Chair Melanson then introduced Deputy Athletics Director Marc Hill to discuss two recommendations.

VI. Business Items

FCR 5 Acceptance of Gift

Deputy Athletics Director Marc Hill introduced FCR 5, a recommendation that the Board of Trustees accept a gift commitment of \$2,000,000 from Brett and Billie Joe Setzer. The gift will support the renovation of the Nutter Field House and the Rich and Karen Brooks Field within it. The Setzers are long-time supporters of the athletics department and the football program.

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to recommend FCR 5. Trustee Webb moved approval, and Trustee Daniels seconded the motion. It carried without dissent.

FCR 16 Replace Kroger Field South Tower Roof Emergency Capital Project

Deputy Director Hill continued by introducing FCR 16, a recommendation that the Board of Trustees confirm the President's approval of the Replace Kroger Field South Tower Roof Emergency Capital Project. On March 3, 2023, Lexington experienced a weather event that included sustained winds of over 75 miles per hour. These high winds damaged the roof system at the upper level of the south tower of Kroger Field. After an extensive review, it was determined that the roof system needed to be replaced. This emergency capital project, which was completed prior to the first home football game replaced the existing system with a new 20-year warranty roof system.

Pursuant to Administrative Regulations, this project qualified as an emergency replacement as it was necessitated by damage resulting from a disaster and will be funded by insurance reimbursement proceeds.

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to recommend FCR 16. Trustee Case moved approval, and Trustee Webb seconded the motion. It carried without dissent.

With no further discussion, Chair Melanson thanked Deputy Director Hill for his report.

VII. Other Business and Adjournment

Chair Melanson pointed out that the Athletics Report had been loaded to Directors Desk and included highlights of that week. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Hardwick', written in a cursive style.

Katie Hardwick
University Athletics Committee Secretary