

Minutes of the University Athletics Committee
University of Kentucky
Thursday, February 20, 2025

The University Athletics Committee of the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees met on Thursday, February 20, 2025, 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 5:17 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 Skip Berry, Todd Case, Lance Lucas, David Melanson and Frank Shoop; Community Advisory Members Vickie Bell and Wells Bullard; and Faculty Athletics Representative Joe Fink. Community Advisory Member Wilbur Hackett was absent.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2024 meeting. Trustee Shoop moved approval of the minutes, and Trustee Lucas seconded the motion. The motion carried without dissent.

Chair Melanson introduced President Capilouto for remarks.

IV. President's Remarks

President Capilouto praised Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart for his leadership during the challenging times in college sports, acknowledging the stability he brings to his team and how it motivates them.

V. Athletics Director's Report

Athletics Director Barnhart reported on the accomplishments of various fall sports teams. He stated that the volleyball team continued its strong performance, securing its eighth straight Southeastern Conference (SEC) Championship with a 14-2 league record. He noted that Kentucky's eight straight SEC championships represent the longest active streak among Power Four conference teams in any sport. The Wildcats also advanced to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Tournament for the 20th consecutive year, one of only eight schools with that distinction, and made it to the Elite Eight. The team finished the season with an overall record of 23-8. Brooklyn DeLeye and Emma Grome were named All-America, with DeLeye also being honored as the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Region Player of the Year and the SEC Player

of the Year. Craig Skinner was named Volleyball Coaches Association Region Coach of the Year and SEC Coach of the Year for the sixth time in the last decade.

He also highlighted that under third-year coach Troy Fabiano, the women's soccer team returned to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in a decade, winning a first-round home game against West Virginia. The team ended the season with an 11-5 record and five ties. Makala Woods was named SEC Newcomer of the Year, and Woods and Grace Phillpotts were named first-team All-SEC, with Maddie Kemp earning a spot on the third team.

Director Barnhart provided an update on the winter sports. He noted that Coach Harry Mullins' rifle team was ranked No. 3 in the country with an 11-2 record, and the University would host the NCAA Championship in March. Gymnastics, coached by Tim Garrison, was also performing well, ranked ninth nationally. He mentioned that swimming and diving, and indoor track and field were entering their championship seasons. The swim-dive teams were in Athens for the SEC Championships, and the track teams were preparing for their event at Texas A&M. NCAA Championships for both sports were scheduled for March.

Barnhart also reported on the strong start of the new basketball coaches. Coach Mark Pope's men's basketball team had an 18-8 record, setting school records for wins against top-10 and top-15 ranked opponents. Coach Kenny Brooks' women's basketball team was 20-4 as they prepared for their game at Missouri, tying the school record for the quickest first-year head coach to reach 20 wins. Both teams were included in the top 16 of the NCAA Tournament bracket reveals.

Director Barnhart provided an overview of spring sports. He reported that the men's tennis team, ranked No. 8 in the nation, advanced to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) under Coach Cedric Kauffmann. The women's tennis team, coached by Shelley Jaudon, finished the non-conference season with a 6-2 record. Softball, ranked No. 23, had a 6-4 record against a challenging schedule and celebrated Coach Rachel Lawson's 600th win at the University. The baseball team, ranked 23rd under Coach Nick Mingione, split a doubleheader on its opening weekend. Both men's and women's golf teams began their spring tournaments, with Cathryn Brown finishing third in the Suncoast Classic. The STUNT team, coached by Blair Bergmann, remained undefeated with a 6-0 record.

Director Barnhart highlighted that eight winter and spring sports were currently ranked in the top 25 nationally. He also mentioned that football spring practice would begin in March, and Coach Mark Stoops had assembled a transfer class ranked in the top 10 nationally, along with a recruiting class in the top 30.

Director Barnhart shared several academic and community service achievements. He reported that UK student-athletes had tied the school record in the NCAA Graduation Success Rate with a score of 92 percent, which was two points higher than the national average. A school-record 155 Wildcats earned degrees in 2024, including 20 master's

degrees. The UK Athletics department also achieved a composite grade point average (GPA) of 3.391 for the fall semester, continuing a streak of 25 consecutive semesters with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. He noted that 495 student-athletes achieved a GPA of 3.0 or higher, with 158 achieving a 4.0. The women's golf team led the way with a record 3.92 team GPA.

Director Barnhart also highlighted the SEC Fall Sports Academic Honor Roll, which included 89 student-athletes. He emphasized the department's commitment to career preparation, mentioning educational events for financial literacy, resume building and interview preparation. Additionally, 217 student-athletes participated in the "Career Combine," meeting with 54 employers and academic graduate programs. The "Pro Career Institute" continued to provide internships for six student-athletes.

In terms of community service, Barnhart recognized several student-athletes, including Tallulah Miller, Brooke Bultema, Torie Buerger, Drew Johnson and Josh Kattus, for their contributions. Kattus had also been named to the NCAA Division I Football Student-Athlete Connection Group and the SEC Football Leadership Council. J.J. Weaver of football earned national honors for his leadership, including the Allstate American Football Coaches Associate (AFCA) Good Works Team, the Freddie Solomon Spirit Award and the Jason Witten Collegiate Man of the Year Award.

Barnhart reported on several key off-the-field events. He noted the successful Hall of Fame Weekend, which inducted the 2024 class, including Jasmine Camacho-Quinn, Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, Henrik Larsen, Jodie Meeks, Corey Peters and John Cropp. He also mentioned the Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame induction of Tony Delk and Oscar Combs, as well as the Lexington African American Sports Hall of Fame induction of six Wildcats. In December, Tim Couch was officially inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. While in Las Vegas, the University of Kentucky received the Team USA Collegiate Impact Award, recognizing the University as one of the top three schools for having athletes win medals at the 2024 Summer Olympics. In January, a reunion was held for the 50th anniversary of the 1975 men's basketball Final Four team.

Barnhart provided an update on the Memorial Coliseum renovation, which was progressing on schedule. The competition spaces for volleyball, women's basketball, gymnastics and STUNT were operational, and the additional interior and exterior spaces were nearing completion. A Grand Opening celebration was planned for April, which would both recognize the new construction and honor Kentuckians in military service.

Barnhart outlined several upcoming events in line with the University's vision of being the University for Kentucky. He mentioned the upcoming Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) swimming and diving state meet, followed by other state high school events in tennis, track and field, softball and baseball. The University will host the NCAA Rifle National Championship in March and the First and Second Rounds of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament a week later. In May, the University will host the NCAA Women's Golf Regional and the SEC Outdoor Track Meet and a concert by Tyler Childers will be held at Kroger Field on April 19.

Athletics Director Barnhart stated that he would provide an update on the national litigation regarding college athletics at a future meeting.

Barnhart expressed his sympathy for those impacted by recent flooding in Eastern Kentucky and the campus community. He reported that various University units had come together to deliver supplies to the affected areas. Donations were accepted at the men's basketball game, and the University would continue working with campus authorities to assist in the recovery process.

Trustee Swanson asked what the student-athlete majors were for those working on their master's degree. Director Barnhart reported that most of the student-athletes were working on their master's in business (MBA).

Business Items

Executive Associate Athletics Director Melissa Gleason reported on the two business items for discussion, noting that they are connected as part of a single process. The first item involves the NCAA bylaws, which require an annual agreed-upon procedure (AUP) to be performed by an independent accounting firm. The primary purpose of this procedure is to ensure that the President is fully aware of the financial status of the Athletics Department.

She stated that the President is actively involved in the department's financial matters and is in frequent communication with campus counterparts, but the process remains mandatory as per NCAA bylaws. The information compiled by the auditors is also entered into the NCAA system, which is essentially the same data but broken out into more detailed line items, particularly regarding individual sports.

Ms. Gleason noted that this process is part of the final stage of the fiscal year-end procedures, which spans 18 months. The budget for the Athletics Department was approved in June 2023, and the entire process culminates with the NCAA submission in January 2025. Once the fiscal year ends, the department closes out the year, books accruals and ensures all expenses are paid. This is followed by the preparation of schedules and supporting documentation.

She explained that once the independent auditors receive the necessary information, they review and test it according to NCAA procedures. These procedures involve testing individual revenue or expense line items that make up at least four percent of the total revenues and expenses. The report includes details on which items have undergone detailed testing and which have not.

Ms. Gleason pointed out that one area where discrepancies are noted is in the scholarship testing section. NCAA requires testing of 10 percent of all student-athletes receiving scholarships, with a maximum of 40 athletes. Since actual scholarship values are compared to average values (resident and non-resident), some differences are

inevitable. She mentioned the compliance office works closely with the auditors to address these differences.

She further explained that once the AUP is issued, the information is entered into the system. This leads to minor rounding differences between the reports due to the use of whole numbers in the system. However, the information remains consistent across the reports, with the NCAA system offering a more detailed breakdown by sport.

Ms. Gleason discussed the transparency of the process, noting that the NCAA submission is often requested through the open records process, most commonly by outlets like USA Today. This data is used to create a searchable database, which allows for comparisons between schools. However, she cautioned that such comparisons can be misleading without understanding the nuances of each institution's circumstances, such as travel schedules, foreign tours or long trips, which can vary significantly.

She also highlighted that different schools have varying interpretations of line items, and even auditors may interpret data differently. However, the department maintains internal consistency in reporting year after year. This consistency allows for a reliable comparison of financial data from one year to the next.

She further emphasized that when comparing individual sports, it is important to remember that each team has different travel and class schedules, which can impact their financial reporting. She gave the example of student-athlete food, which is represented in multiple line items in the report. Some teams, for example, may eat at a training table, which is counted as part of the aid, while others may not have this option and are instead provided with non-sport-specific meals available in the nutrition kitchen.

Executive Associate Athletics Director Melissa Gleason concluded by noting that some budgeted expenses are not included directly in the revenue and expense report but are instead embedded within other areas, which may make the final bottom line appear inflated. She reminded everyone that while the NCAA report is a valuable tool, it should be used with caution and an understanding of the underlying details.

VI. Other Business

FCR 12 Improve Kroger Field 2: 2025 Stadium Maintenance Capital Project

Chair Melanson introduced FCR 12, a request that the committee favorably recommend to the Finance Committee the acceptance of the initiation of the Improve Kroger Field 2 (2025 Stadium Maintenance) capital project.

Chair Melanson recognized Director Barnhart who explained in 2023, a study was undertaken to perform a condition assessment and evaluation of Kroger Field. Based upon the study, a master maintenance plan was developed consisting of a detailed, proposed preventative maintenance and repair program. This maintenance master plan

is designed to alleviate existing deterioration, provide long-term durability and extend the football stadium's useful life.

The project contains the work defined in the second year of the master maintenance plan including concrete repairs, surface coatings installation, masonry repairs, painting, roof maintenance and other miscellaneous work as needed to extend the life and serviceability of Kroger Field.

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to recommend FCR 12. Trustee Shoop moved approval, and Trustee Case seconded the motion. It carried without dissent.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Melanson reminded the Committee that the full Athletics Report had been loaded to Directors Desk. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 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