

Minutes of the University Athletics Committee
University of Kentucky
Thursday, February 16, 2023

The University Athletics Committee of the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees met on Thursday, February 16, 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 5:45 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, Ray Daniels, David Melanson and Rachel Webb; Community Advisory Members Vickie Bell, Wells Bullard and Wilbur Hackett; and Faculty Athletics Representative Joe Fink.

III. Chairs Report

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 15, 2022, meeting. Trustee Webb moved approval of the minutes, and Trustee Berry seconded the motion. The motion carried without dissent.

Chair Melanson recognized Director Barnhart, who was recently honored at the National Football Foundation (NFF) Annual Awards Dinner, where he received the 2022 National Football Foundation John L. Toner Award. The John L. Toner Award is designed to honor and acknowledge outstanding athletic directors who have demonstrated superior administrative abilities, especially in the area of college football.

Chair Melanson shared a quote from NFF President and CEO Steve Hatchell, "For two decades, Mitch Barnhart has skillfully guided Kentucky as one of the foremost leaders in collegiate athletics. He is committed to ensuring Wildcat student-athletes have success both on and off the field. We are pleased to honor him with the 2022 NFF John L. Toner Award in recognition of his distinguished career."

The attendees responded with a round of applause.

Chair Melanson then introduced President Capilouto for his report.

IV. President's Report

President Capilouto echoed Chair Melanson's remarks concerning Director Barnhart and pointed out that, "the recognition included academic success, which we all have grown used to at the University of Kentucky, semester after semester."

The president continued by announcing that UK student-athletes tied the school record in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) graduation success rate (GSR) and UK had broken or tied the GSR school record every year since the NCAA began measuring the statistic in 2005. “This year’s score of 92 percent is three percent above the national average. A record 156 Wildcat student-athletes earned degrees and certifications during the 2022 calendar year and included 14 with master’s degrees.”

V. Athletics Director’s Report

Director Barnhart reflected on the fall sports teams who won three championships, and one winter sport that had produced a championship already. Fall sports roundup included:

- Despite having to overcome injuries to key players, the football team posted seven wins and accomplished multiple milestones.
 - In September, the win at Florida was No. 61 for Coach Mark Stoops, breaking the school record of 60 victories by Paul “Bear” Bryant.
 - The Wildcats finished the regular season with a win over Louisville to retain possession of the Governor’s Cup.
 - The win over Louisville completed a streak of 20 consecutive wins against non-conference opponents, a school record. It also was the longest streak in the nation.
 - UK extended another school record by advancing to a seventh-consecutive bowl game.
 - Five Wildcats were named All-Southeastern (SEC) Conference and it is encouraging to note that six freshmen earned Freshman All-America or Freshman All-SEC honors, which bodes well for the future.
 - Looking at UK’s roster for next year, UK had good news from some seniors who have decided to take advantage of the NCAA rule allowing an extra year of eligibility because of COVID and will stay for another season.
 - Spring practice begins in March and there will not be a spring game this year because of the installation of a new playing surface in Kroger Field.
- The volleyball team kept rolling on, posting its sixth straight SEC championship with a 15-3 league record.
 - The Wildcats advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament and had an overall record of 22-8.
 - Azhani Tealer, Adanna Rollins, Reagan Rutherford and Emma Grome were named All-America. Grome also was named SEC Player of the Year, the fifth straight year a Wildcat has been named the league’s player of the year.
- In the first year in a new league, Johan Cedergren’s men’s soccer team won the Sun Belt Conference regular season and tournament championships.
 - UK was the only team in the nation to finish the regular season undefeated.

- The Wildcats advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament, their only loss of the season, and finished with a final record of 15 wins, 1 loss and five ties.
 - Eythor Bjorgolfsson, Luis Grassow and Casper Mols earned All-America and 10 Wildcats earned all-conference distinction.
 - Coach Cedergren was named Sun Belt Coach of the Year. As a group the UK coaches were named the NCAA Southeast Region Staff of the Year.
- Women's soccer completed its first year under new head coach Troy Fabiano. Coach Fabiano and his staff have been very aggressive on the recruiting trail to build a program that will contend for championships.
 - The cross country season was highlighted by Tori Herman and Perri Bockrath, who finished in the top 10 of the Women's NCAA Regional and advanced to the NCAA Championships.

Director Barnhart continued by reporting on the Winter Sports Roundup including:

- The Men's basketball team was 16-9 overall and 7-5 in the SEC. The Wildcats have battled injuries all season and are trying to get the full roster back together heading into the stretch run of the regular season.
- Women's basketball is 10-14 on the year and has four games remaining before heading to the SEC Tournament.
- The men's and women's swimming and diving teams were currently at the SEC Championships at Texas A&M. The women's team is ranked No. 10 in the nation and the men's and women's teams have a total of 16 individuals and relays ranked in the nation's top 25.
- Led by Olympic medalist Will Shaner, the No. 4-ranked rifle team won the Great American Rifle Conference regular-season championship with a win over West Virginia. It is the Wildcats' fourth-consecutive regular-season conference title, the longest streak in the storied history of UK's program.
- Led by Raena Worley, who is posting some of the top all-around scores in the nation, the gymnastics team is 6-2 overall, 3-1 in the SEC and ranked No. 11 nationally. Recently, the team posted a school-record score of 197.825 in a win over Alabama.
- The men's and women's indoor track teams are each ranked in the nation's top 20. Six school records have been set this season, highlighted by Masai Russell's NCAA record of 7.75 seconds in the 60-meter hurdles. To put into perspective how amazing that feat is – consider that UK's school record for the 60-meter dash is 7.10 seconds by Abby Steiner. That means Masai is covering the 60 meters and jumping the hurdles in less than a second more than someone who runs the 60 meters without hurdles. The teams are preparing for the SEC Indoor Championships next week.

Director Barnhart continued by reporting on the Spring Sports Roundup including:

- Our men's and women's golf, men's and women's tennis, softball, baseball and STUNT teams have returned to action.
 - Men's golf finished in fourth place among 11 teams in the opening tournament.
 - In its opening tournament, the No. 23-ranked women's golf team posted the third-best score in school history.
 - Women's tennis has a 4-3 record to this point.
 - The men's tennis team is 10-0, including a win at Virginia in a rematch of the 2022 national championship match. The Wildcats are ranked No. 2 in the nation and headed to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) National Tournament.
 - On its opening weekend, the No. 17-ranked softball team went 2-0 and also ended in a tie vs. No. 6-ranked Texas in the final game.
- All totaled, eight of UK's winter and spring sports are currently ranked in the top 25 in the nation.

Director Barnhart reported academic accomplishments including 411 Wildcats who achieved a GPA of 3.0 or higher for the fall semester, including 109 Cats who reached 4.0 for the semester which continued UK Athletics' streak of 21 consecutive semesters with a department-wide GPA of 3.0 or higher. Additionally, the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Fall Sports Academic Honor Roll was announced, and UK had 94 student-athletes represented which is the fourth-most in the league.

In addition to performance in academics, a large part of UK's Student-Athlete Experience Division –“The Kentucky Road” – involves career preparation. During the last month, they have had educational events for financial literacy, resume preparation, interview preparation and practice, plus a “Career Combine” with prospective employers.

Twenty-two student-athletes were inducted into the Frank G. Ham Society of Character. To be inducted, a student-athlete must be a junior or higher in academic standing and show an extraordinary commitment to academic excellence, athletic participation, personal development, career preparation and serving as a role model.

UK's student-athletes continue to be active in the community. Jalen Geiger of football, Maddie Berezowitz of volleyball and Peyton Rimko of women's soccer were named to the SEC Community Service Teams for their sports.

Director Barnhart continued his report, “UK Athletics completed its year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of Title IX. We selected a Title IX 50th Anniversary Team, comprised of the 50 greatest female athletes in school history, and honored that

group in October at Big Blue Madness. A week later, we held a free movie night for the public at John Cropp Softball Stadium and showed the movie, "A League of Their Own."

A hot-topic issue in college athletics is the evolving nature of student-athletes taking advantage of name-image-likeness (NIL) opportunities. "We wholeheartedly embrace our athletes' ability to earn from their NIL and continue to do everything we can to empower them to succeed. We are thankful for our fans and excited that so many have reached out asking what they can do to help." Director Barnhart stated that in year one of NIL, 176 student-athletes completed well over 1,000 transactions and that number has continued to grow in year two. UK Athletics has launched a website, BBNIL.com, which makes it easy to access student-athletes directly for NIL activities or to participate in collective group projects.

Director Barnhart provided an update on current construction projects:

- Contracts are being finalized for a new playing surface in Kroger Field and construction is expected to begin soon.
- Renovation of the current Nutter Field House to a facility that is used primarily for football will begin in April and the goal is completion by the time practice resumes in August.
- Construction of the new indoor track facility, located next to the current outdoor track on the site of the old baseball field, is in progress with the goal of completion by the end of this year.

Chair Melanson thanked Director Barnhart for his report and introduced Executive Associate Athletics Director Melissa Gleason for her report.

VI. Business Items

NCAA Agreed Upon Procedures Report and Submission

Director Gleason described the process of gathering and comparing the data for the NCAA Agreed Upon Procedures Report and NCAA report submission. She explained the NCAA submission report is the final portion of the fiscal year reporting and is part of the FORVIS agreed-upon procedures process. Ms. Gleason reminded the Committee that both the NCAA Agreed-Upon Procedures report and the 2022 NCAA Report Submission are two separate items but part of the same process in the Athletics Department's end-of-year reporting.

Ms. Gleason discussed the challenge of the NCAA report submission and how it allows each institution to interpret the various line items, making it difficult to accurately compare the results among UK's peer institutions.

Chair Melanson thanked Director Gleason and asked for any questions. He reminded the Committee that a vote was not required and that the reports were informational only.

VII. Other Business

FCR 18 Renew/Modernize Facilities (Improve Memorial Coliseum) Capital Project

FCR 18 seeks approval to initiate the Renew/Modernize Facilities (Improve Memorial Coliseum) capital project and the use of agency bonds authorized by the 2022 General Assembly to fund a portion of the project. FCR 18 also seeks approval to declare official intent to reimburse capital expenditures from a future debt obligation for the capital project.

In its February 2019 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the design phase of the Improve Memorial Coliseum capital project. This FCR will initiate the construction phase.

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to approve FCR 18. Trustee Berry moved approval, and Trustee Case seconded the motion. The motion carried without dissent.

Chair Melanson reminded the Committee that the full Athletics Report had been loaded to Directors Desk and urged the members to review all the accomplishments of the university's student-athletes.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectively submitted,



Katie Hardwick

University Athletics Committee Secretary