

Minutes of the University Athletics Committee
University of Kentucky
Thursday, February 18, 2021

The University Athletics Committee of the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees met on Thursday, February 18, 2021, via Zoom webinar.

I. Meeting Opened

Trustee David Melanson, chair of the University Athletics Committee, called the meeting to order at 5:30 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, Ray Daniels, David Melanson and Rachel Webb; Community Advisory Members Vickie Bell and Wells Bullard; and Faculty Athletics Representative Joe Fink.

III. Chairs Report

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2020, meeting. Trustee Daniels moved for approval. Trustee Berry seconded the motion and it carried without dissent.

Chair Melanson introduced President Capilouto for remarks.

IV. President's Remarks

The president began by congratulating Athletics Director Barnhart for wrapping up his chairmanship of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee and transitioning to the College Football Playoff Selection Committee. "It is a credit to you and the respect you hold across athletics in the United States that you are called upon to serve in these roles."

The president continued by thanking AD Barnhart and his team for overcoming logistical hurdles in order to have many sports in play, traveling, competing, as well as succeeding in the classroom. "This is not an easy task and the Athletic Department stepped forward and is making it possible." The president recognized that the student-athletes were the first students to return to campus in the early summer and they have been outstanding in terms of compliance with testing protocols.

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 he was privileged to represent the University of Kentucky and be a part of the Committees. Director Barnhart continued by reporting that all 22 of the sports teams would be in action during the remainder of the school year; allowing the Department to support the student-athletes at a higher level than before. He reminded the Committee about the vital role facilities and staff continues to do in implementing COVID-19 health protocols and updating, as needed, guidelines set forth by the NCAA, Southeastern Conference, University of Kentucky and federal and local authorities.

AD Barnhart continued his report by highlighting fall sports accomplishments. "Since we were last together in December, the football team posted its third straight bowl win with a victory at the Gator Bowl." Director Barnhart added that Coach Stoops became the first coach in school history to take the Wildcats to five straight bowl games. In addition, several players received All-America or All-SEC recognition and offensive lineman Kenneth Horsey was named the Mayo Clinic "Comeback Player of the Year" due to his recovery from heart surgery a couple of years prior.

"There has been a lot of good news regarding our roster. We had players who could have declared for the NFL Draft who have decided to come back for another year. Several seniors have decided to take advantage of the NCAA rule allowing an extra year of eligibility and will be with us for another season. We had another productive recruiting period and have accepted some transfer players who will help us when they become eligible to play."

Additional highlights included:

- The **volleyball** team has resumed competition, has improved its record to 12-0 and ranked No. 3 in the nation.
- **Men's soccer** is 6-1 and will begin its conference schedule in March.
- **Women's soccer** played its SEC schedule in the fall and will play a few matches this spring.
- **Men's and women's cross-country** teams are awaiting the team and individual selections for the NCAA Championships in March.
- The **men's basketball** team has not had the season that many had hoped for. They have had to deal with a number of challenges – most notably the absence of key players for extended periods, circumstances that hindered the development of a very inexperienced team, and one of the most difficult schedules in the country. They continue to give great effort.

- Kyra Elzy was officially named the head coach of **women's basketball** and her team has a 14-5 record and ranked No. 17 in the country.
- The **women's swimming and diving** team is ranked No. 3, the highest ranking in school history. The team has been led by Riley Gaines, who has broken three school records, and the team has 21 individual events and relays ranked in the nation's top 25.
- The men's swimming and diving team has 16 individual times in the nation's top 50 so far.
- The No. 2-ranked **rifle** team is 13-1 and won a share of the Great American Rifle Conference with Saturday's win over West Virginia. They are preparing for the upcoming conference and NCAA championships. Mary Tucker leads the nation in shooting average and Will Shaner is fourth.
- After graduating a number of veterans from last season, the young **gymnastics** team still has been able to maintain a No. 15 national ranking and are doing well in the ultra-competitive SEC with a 3-1 league record.
- The **women's indoor track** team is ranked No. 13 nationally and has been led by sprinter Abby Steiner, who has the nation's leading time in the 200 meters and already has earned a qualifying time for the U.S. Olympic trials. The **men's indoor track** team is No. 16 in the country. Those teams have completed the regular season and are preparing for the SEC and NCAA championships.
- The **men's and women's golf, men's and women's tennis, softball** and **baseball teams** have returned to action or will do so soon. Both of the tennis teams are off to great starts. The men's team is 10-1, with its only loss of the season a 4-3 decision against No. 1 USC. In that match, UK's Liam Draxl defeated the No. 1-ranked player in the nation. The women's team is 8-0 heading into SEC play.

Director Barnhart noted that a number of UK's athletes currently competing are on the watch lists for national awards or have been chosen preseason All-America or all-conference in their sports and continued by highlighting team accomplishments off the field. "Asia Seidt was one of the recipients of the NCAA Top 10 award, which is given across all athletes in all divisions, for her outstanding combination of academic, athletic and leadership achievements. Previously, she was named the NCAA Woman of the Year in November. Despite the challenges of a hybrid system of in-person and online classes, UK Athletics continues to thrive academically with several noteworthy achievements from the fall semester which were reviewed during the December meeting."

AD Barnhart continued by remembering Ben Jordan, a baseball player who also had played a season with the basketball team and died on January 11. "Unfortunately, our new year began with grief because of the loss of one of our baseball players, Ben

Jordan,” Director Mitch Barnhart said. “Ben loved and cherished being a Wildcat. He had a servant’s heart and answered the call whenever asked, including putting his promising baseball career on hold to help with the basketball team when it needed him last season. I remember meeting Ben on his official visit to campus and being so impressed with his passion for this state and the University of Kentucky. Certainly, we will honor Ben’s memory as we move forward with the upcoming season.”

AD Barnhart concluded his report by looking ahead. “February is the time that we begin planning for the next school year. We have all been through an unprecedented time and as we begin planning for 2021-22, we have challenged our staff and our coaches to look at their roles in light of the past year and ask these questions.”

- What do we know?
- What don’t we know?
- What do we think we know?
- What have we learned?
- How are we going to adapt?

Chair Melanson thanked Director Barnhart and asked for the Committee to hold any questions until after the business items were presented.

VI. Business Items

Chair Melanson introduced Executive Associate Athletics Director Melissa Gleason to review the NCAA reports.

NCAA Agreed-Upon Procedures and 2020 NCAA Report Submission

Executive Associate Athletics Director Gleason described the process of gathering and comparing the data for the reports. She explained the NCAA submission report is the final portion of the fiscal year reporting and is part of the Baird, Kurtz, and Dobson (BKD) agreed-upon procedures process.

Ms. Gleason pointed out the challenge for the NCAA report submission is that it allows each institution to interpret the various line items, making it difficult to accurately compare the results among UK’s peer institutions. Director Gleason illustrated this point by discussing how the NCAA does not allow the institutions to report excess revenues or excess expenses that are transferred to the university if they do not receive revenues back from the university such as student fees, which were eliminated several years ago. She cited specific examples including non-athletic scholarships and the remaining debt service for the Jacobs Science Building. “Because of this the NCAA report indicates a \$5.4 million profit, but in actuality, the profit was approximately \$190,000 due to the transfers.”

With no further discussion, Chair Melanson thanked Director Gleason and applauded UK Athletics for the support they provide to campus including the Robinson

Scholar and Singletary Scholars programs, as well as the support for the Jacobs Academic Science Building.

VII. Other Business and Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Katie Hardwick
University Athletics Committee Secretary