

Minutes of the University Athletics Committee
University of Kentucky
Thursday, February 17, 2022

The University Athletics Committee of the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees met on Thursday, February 17, 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 5:47 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, Joe Bowen, Ray Daniels, David Melanson and Rachel Webb; Community Advisory Member Wells Bullard; Faculty Athletics Representative Joe Fink; and Community Advisory Members Vickie Bell and Wilbur Hackett attended via Zoom.

III. Chairs Report

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2021, meeting. Trustee Bowen moved approval of the minutes, and Trustee Webb seconded the motion. The motion carried without dissent.

Chair Melanson introduced President Capilouto for remarks.

IV. President's Remarks

The president discussed Director Barnhart and Coach John Calipari's appearance in Frankfort presenting to the Kentucky Legislative Committee on Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) legislation. He pointed out that Director Barnhart's remarks were a reminder that it is all about education, and that is the way he leads UK's Department of Athletics.

The president discussed the university's advantage with Director Barnhart's decades-long experience during this time of accelerated change in college athletics. "I want to thank Mitch and his team for what they did in contributing to the legislation that received overwhelming support and all he does to support education not only within our student-athletes but also across our entire campus."

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 there had been a lot to celebrate since their last meeting and much to anticipate while the Department is in its busiest time of year.

Director Barnhart highlighted fall sports achievements that produced three championships, including the football team's fourth-straight bowl win; the volleyball team's fifth straight Southeastern Conference (SEC) championship with a 17-1 league record; and the men's soccer team's Conference USA tournament championship.

Director Barnhart discussed women's soccer, which is under new leadership with the hiring of head coach Troy Fabiano. "In his seven seasons at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, Coach Fabiano won six Horizon League championships, had a winning percentage of over 82 percent and was named six-time Horizon League Coach of the Year. His teams went on to win matches in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Tournament each of the last two seasons."

Director Barnhart highlighted the cross country season with the women's team finishing third in the NCAA Regional. Student-athlete Tori Herman finished 17th at the national meet and earned All-America distinction.

Director Barnhart reported UK finished the fall season ranked 21st in the Directors' Cup national all-sports standings, and fourth in the SEC. Director Barnhart explained that out of 353 schools, UK is currently ranked No. 21 as the Department heads into the winter standings.

AD Barnhart continued by highlighting the following Sports Roundup:

Winter Sports Roundup

- Men's basketball is ranked in the top five in the nation with a 21-5 record and returns home to play Alabama this Saturday. The Wildcats have been led by Oscar Tshiebwe, who is a candidate for National Player of the Year.
- Women's basketball continues to deal with an incredible run of injuries, playing shorthanded since the beginning of the season. The team has won its last two games and hopes to make a run at the end of the season. All-American Rhyne Howard continues to lead the team.
- Even as we speak, the men's and women's swimming and diving teams are at the SEC Championships in Knoxville, where the No. 13-ranked women are vying to win a second-consecutive SEC championship. The men's and women's teams have a total of 10 individuals and relays ranked in the nation's top 20.
- Led by Olympic medalists Will Shaner and Mary Tucker, the No. 1-ranked rifle team is 9-1 and tied for the Great American Rifle Conference regular-season championship. In January, the team posted the highest score in NCAA history with

a mark of 4752. The team is getting ready for the conference and NCAA championship meets.

- Led by Raena Worley, who is posting some of the top all-around scores in the nation, the gymnastics team is 6-1 overall, 3-1 in the SEC and ranked No. 10 nationally.
- Both the women's indoor track and the men's indoor track team are off to a tremendous start. Four school records have been set this season, highlighted by NCAA records by Abby Steiner in the 200- and 300-meter dashes. Those teams are preparing for the SEC and NCAA championships.

Spring Sports Roundup

- UK 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.
- Women's golf posted the best tournament score in school history at their most recent match. They are ranked No. 25 in the nation and are led by Jensen Castle, the reigning U.S. Amateur champion.
- Both tennis teams are off to great starts. The women's team is off to a program-best 9-0 start.
- The men's tennis team is 8-1, with its only loss of the season at No. 1 Ohio State. Led by the reigning National Player of the Year Liam Draxl, the Wildcats are ranked No. 10 in the nation and headed to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) National Tournament this weekend.
- The No.19-ranked softball team went 4-1 on the opening weekend.
- All totaled, nine of UK's winter and spring sports are currently ranked in the top 25 in the nation.
- It is worth noting that several UK athletes currently competing are on the watch lists for national awards or have been chosen preseason All-America or all-conference in their sports.
- UK is in the process of launching its newest sport – STUNT – which was discussed at the board meeting in September. There are 47 women on the team, which has its first official games at a tournament this weekend at Dallas Baptist. UK will host its first official home game on March 12.

Director Barnhart discussed the 50th Anniversary of Title IX, which is June 23rd, and how the legislation has had a profound effect on the growth of women's sports. UK Athletics is having a year-long celebration of Title IX, which began February 2, with "National Women and Girls in Sports Day", where all UK's female athletes were introduced at halftime of the basketball game that night at Rupp Arena and the department's special 50th Anniversary video was presented. UK Athletics will also select a Title IX 50th Anniversary Team, featuring the 50 greatest female Wildcats of the Title IX era.

Director Barnhart continued by highlighting academic achievements:

- In November, it was announced that UK student-athletes broke both a school record for Federal Graduation Rate and tied the school record in the NCAA

Graduation Success Rate (GSR). UK has broken or tied the GSR school record every year since the NCAA began measuring that statistic in 2005.

- Including the 2021 winter commencement and last spring's graduation, 115 student-athletes earned degrees during the 2021 calendar year.
- In December, 395 Wildcats achieved a GPA of 3.0 or higher for the fall semester, including 107 Cats who reached 4.0 for the semester. That continued UK Athletics' streak of 19 consecutive semesters with a department-wide GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- The SEC Fall Sports Academic Honor Roll was recently announced and there were 101 UK student-athletes represented; the third-most in the league.

Director Barnhart highlighted some **Off-the-Field News** including:

- In addition to UK's performance in academics, a large part of the Student-Athlete Experience Division, known as The Kentucky Road, involves career preparation. During the last month, educational events for financial literacy, resume preparation, interview preparation and practice, and a "career combine" with prospective employers were held.
- UK's student-athletes continue to be active in the community. From the football team, offensive lineman Kenneth Horsey was named to the National Good Works Team and received an award from the American Heart Association for his service to that organization. In addition to Kenneth, Alli Stumler from volleyball and Peyton Rimko from women's soccer were named to the SEC Community Service Teams for their sports.
- Due to the pandemic, the department was unable to hold an induction ceremony for the 2020 class of the UK Athletics Hall of Fame, so in November the 2020 and 2021 classes were honored at a dinner, and then the 12 honorees were recognized at basketball and football games that weekend.
- One of our team physicians, Dr. Rob Hosey, has been named SEC Team Physician of the Year and will be honored for that award in May.

Director Barnhart wrapped up his Off-the-Field report by discussing the tornadoes that hit the western part of the Commonwealth in December. "We were heartbroken by the devastation, and with the help of our partners at WLEX-TV and JMI Sports, four days later we held a "Kentucky United" telethon. Thanks to the generosity of the Big Blue Nation, in one hour more than \$3 million was raised for tornado relief. Contributions continued to come in afterward and eventually reached more than \$5 million. A week later, when the University of Louisville had to postpone our men's basketball game, we were able to host Western Kentucky University and continue to bring attention and support for the recovery effort." Director Barnhart added that many individuals from the Athletics Department have had the opportunity to visit the people and places affected in that area and continue to be involved.

Director Barnhart continued by discussing the evolving landscape of NIL. “Last June I shared with you the department’s plans to guide UK’s student-athletes through the opportunities before them related to the changes and rules around the commercial use of their name, image and likeness. Over the past seven months, UK has had the opportunity to help our student-athletes navigate that space where a federal solution is a single standard for all 50 states is the best option.”

Director Barnhart continued, “I am grateful to our state government, and our leaders for their help toward a state law that protects the student-athletes in Kentucky. Since that time UK student-athletes have reported over 800 NIL transactions through our compliance office, and more than half of the student-athletes representing nearly one of every sports team have entered into agreements to monetize their NIL over that relatively short period of time. My point in sharing that data is to confirm for you that athletes representing this institution have engaged in this new opportunity and done so with the tools provided to them through The Kentucky Road student-athlete experience model that we have in place. In addition to the financial literacy, the life skills and the whole person development, The Kentucky Road includes resources to help each of our student-athletes enhance and expose their personal brands specifically UK Athletics.”

Director Barnhart continued, “The model provides industry-leading support for leveraging individual social media presence through educational opportunity and data-backed insight scholarships for former student-athletes until they achieve their bachelor's degrees regardless of their sport or how long they have been away from the university.”

Mr. Barnhart continued by discussing the enhanced financial literacy education the program offers to help students make the best long-term financial decisions for themselves as well as several other initiatives including development toward professional sports leagues, private industry entrepreneurship, networking opportunities and engaging in job placement programs. “The bottom line is our staff has had an incredible record of expanding financial opportunity and personal growth for student-athletes during and after their playing days at the University of Kentucky and I continue to believe the transformative power of intercollegiate athletics and its experience is essential to who we are. We will continue to enhance the services that we provide to students and empower them to achieve their dreams; that is the DNA of UK Athletics. The goal for us is that even as rules change, and the landscape continues to evolve UK student-athletes will be prepared to maximize whatever opportunities that will be in front of them while also continuing their education and benefiting from all the things that come from being on this wonderful campus Kentucky.”

Chair Melanson thanked Director Barnhart and opened the floor for questions. Trustee Hawse asked about international student-athletes and their issues with NIL participation. Mr. Barnhart explained that the issue is at the federal level, but the Athletics Department continues to advocate for those students, as well as the other athletes on a daily basis.

Trustee Bowen asked about the distribution of Bowl funds in the SEC. Director Barnhart explained the fund distribution and per diem amounts for mileage, meals, etc.

Chair Melanson introduced Executive Associate Athletics Director Melissa Gleason for the NCAA Report.

VI. Business Items

2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Reports

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 reminded the Committee that both the NCAA Agreed-Upon Procedures report and the 2021 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 14 Construct Indoor Track Capital Project

Chair Melanson introduced FCR 14, the recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve the initiation of the Construct Indoor Track Capital Project. Mr. Melanson called on Director Barnhart to provide additional information regarding the recommendation.

Mr. Barnhart reported that the nationally ranked track and field program represents six of the department's 23 sports and over 100 of the overall 550 student-athletes and cited the multiple Olympic medalists, and the world and collegiate record holders. He recognized Track and Field Coach Lonnie Greene and discussed how the new facility will allow the students to train at the highest level and creates a track and field complex for the university. Mr. Barnhart introduced Coach Greene for comments.

Coach Greene thanked the Board and the Athletics Department for the opportunity to provide this facility to their student-athletes and take the Track and Field program to the next level. He highlighted that the proposed facility includes a banked track which is very important to world-class training as UK recruits high-level student-athletes. He

explained a banked track offers the flexibility of laying the track flat or banking it, incorporating a slope into the turns of the track.

Chair Melanson thanked Director Barnhart and Coach Greene and asked for a motion to approve FCR 14. Trustee Webb moved approval, and Trustee Berry seconded the motion. The motion carried without dissent.

FCR 15 Improve Athletics Facility 2 Capital Project

Chair Melanson introduced FCR 15, the recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve the initiation of the Improve Athletics Facility 2 Capital Project. The chair yielded the floor to Director Barnhart to provide background on the project.

Director Barnhart explained that the project will improve and renovate the Nutter Fieldhouse to create a football-focused environment while also enhancing student safety. The planned improvements include the replacement of the synthetic turf with an infill system over a wall-to-wall shock pad, revisions to the mechanical system to improve circulation and performance as well as new overhead doors and operable windows to add passive circulation to the practice area. visibility during practice and reduce maintenance while improving energy efficiency.

Chair Melanson thanked Director Barnhart and asked for a motion to approve FCR 15. Trustee Berry moved approval, and Trustee Bowen seconded the motion. The motion carried without dissent.

FCR 16 Improve Kroger Field Stadium

Chair Melanson introduced FCR 16, the recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve the initiation of the Kroger Field Stadium Capital Project. The chair asked Director Barnhart to provide background on the project.

Director Barnhart explained the project will improve the video system at the Kroger Field Stadium. The current stadium bowl light-emitting diodes (LED) video displays have reached the end of their expected service life and are experiencing intermittent failures. Installation of new, improved video displays will improve the fan experience and ensure that UK Athletics facilities are in line with SEC and NCAA competitors.

Chair Melanson thanked Director Barnhart and asked for a motion to approve FCR 16. Trustee Daniels moved approval, and Trustee Berry seconded the motion. The motion carried without dissent.

Chair Melanson reminded the Committee that the full Athletics Report could be found on Directors Desk and introduced President Capilouto for closing remarks.

President Capilouto recognized Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart for his recently announced recognition as a Southeastern Conference Trailblazer and reported that

Director Barnhart and his fellow honorees will be recognized during the 2022 Women's Basketball Tournament. SEC Trailblazers are recognized for contributing to the advancement of women and the growth of women's athletics at their universities and within the Southeastern Conference.

Chair Melanson thanked the president for his comments and congratulated Director Barnhart. He then asked if there was any other business to come before the Committee.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Katie Hardwick