



Faculty Oversight Committee Annual Report

Presented: September 1, 2017

Prepared by: Rick Burton

David B. Falk Professor of Sport Management

Faculty Athletics Representative and chair of the Faculty Oversight Committee

FOC Membership:

Keith Alford, Chris Johnson, Teresa MacDonald, Jeff Mangram, Kevin Antshel, Jamie Winders, Tommy Powell (ex officio), Rick Burton (chair)

Charter:

As required by the FOC Policies and Guidelines charter (Responsibilities, Item No. 1), the FOC shall submit an oral or written report to the Chancellor each year on its work and activities in support of the [Syracuse] student-athlete

Period Covered: July 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017

SU Provost During this Time: Michele Wheatly (appointed May 2016)

SU Athletic Directors During this Time: D. French (interim), John Wildhack (appointed July 2016)

SU Athletic Performance During Reporting Period: While the FOC can take no credit for any athletic performance, SU Athletics enjoyed a strong year with numerous teams reaching the NCAA, NIT or IRA 'playoffs.' Additionally, women's ice hockey just missed qualifying for their first-ever NCAA Tournament. In fact, 12 teams out of 20 represented SU in national post-season competition. Based on the above performances, SU finished 44th in the Learfield NACDA Director's Cup. This placed Syracuse 9th in the ACC behind North Carolina (5), Florida State (13), Virginia (19), Notre Dame (23), Louisville (26), NC State (29), Duke (32) and Virginia Tech (40) but ahead of nationally prominent schools such as West Virginia, Tennessee, Indiana, Maryland, Clemson, Michigan State and Miami.

SU Academic Performance During Reporting Period: The FOC can also take no credit for academic performance by Syracuse student-athletes. Instead, performance kudos should be directed toward Tommy Powell, Assistant Provost for Student-Athlete Academic Development. Tommy and his staff in the Stevenson Center give our student-athletes a great chance to shine academically and the the FOC is pleased to acknowledge SU student-athletes again enjoyed two strong semesters of academic achievement during 2016-17:

Spring 2017 Academic Highlights - 2016-2017 ACC Honor Roll:

Syracuse University placed 282 student-athletes on the 2016-17 Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Academic Honor Roll. The ACC Honor Roll is comprised of student-athletes who participated in a varsity-level sport and registered a grade point average of 3.0 or better for the full academic year. The record number of Orange student-athletes on the ACC honor roll includes 24 four-time honorees:

1. Oyvind Alseth – Men’s Soccer
2. Colin Bennie – Track & Field/Cross Country
3. Abby Connor – Women’s Lacrosse
4. Terell Drayton – Football
5. Jason Emerich – Football
6. Jordan Evans – Men’s Lacrosse
7. Scott Firman – Men’s Lacrosse
8. Taylor Gait – Women’s Lacrosse
9. Paul Lovell – Track & Field/Cross Country
10. Shannon Malone – Track & Field/Cross Country
11. Shannon McCann – Women’s Rowing
12. Haley McDonnell – Women’s Lacrosse
13. Saydee McQuay – Women’s Rowing
14. Olivia Mennillo – Women’s Rowing
15. Evan Molloy – Men’s Lacrosse
16. Kaeli O’Connor – Women’s Lacrosse
17. Devon Parker – Men’s Lacrosse
18. Andrew Reichard – Men’s Crew
19. Daniel Rowbotham – Men’s Crew
20. Valeria Salazar – Tennis
21. Stephanie Skilton – Women’s Soccer
22. Regan Spencer – Women’s Field Hockey
23. Alexander Will – Men’s Crew
24. Kelsey Youmell – Women’s Lacrosse

2016-17 Academic All-Americans:

Additionally, four Syracuse student-athletes earned highly-prestigious Academic All-America honors:

1. Cameron MacPherson – Football
2. Hendrik Hilpert – Men’s Soccer
3. Colin Bennie – Track & Field/Cross Country
4. Adam Palamar – Track & Field/Cross Country

APR 2016-17 Highlights:

- Perfect Multi-Year Rate
 - Men's Basketball
 - Women's Soccer (second year in a row)
- 14 teams had a perfect single-year score
- 8 teams had perfect single-year scores for three consecutive years
- 18 out of 19 teams had perfect single-year eligibility scores
- Single-Year Institutional Score of a 990 is tied for highest single-year score on record
- Multi-Year Institutional Score of 985 is tied for the highest multi-year score on record

Fall 2016 Semester:

Team	Fall 2016 Credit Hours	Fall 2016 Quality Points	Fall 2016 GPA
M. Basketball	244	693.339	2.842
W. Basketball	230	649.019	2.822
M. Rowing	625	2080.015	3.328
W. Rowing	711	2418.384	3.401
Tennis	98	334.664	3.415
W. Soccer	320	1117.68	3.493
M. Soccer	389	1200.006	3.085
Ice Hockey	349	1070.009	3.066
Volleyball	220	726	3.300
Softball	284	896.676	3.157
M. T&F/XC	536	1496.005	2.791
W. T&F/XC	471	1507.022	3.200
M. Lacrosse	755	2171.015	2.876
W. Lacrosse	625	1916.355	3.066
Field Hockey	297	905.992	3.050
Football	1232	3211.013	2.606
Overall	7386	22393.19	3.032

- Fall Semester Overall GPA: 3.03
- Overall Cumulative GPA: 3.080. This is up from a 3.03 GPA after Fall 2015
- Men's Basketball had its highest semester GPA on record
- Men's Crew had its highest Fall GPA in over 10 years
- Men's Soccer had its highest Fall GPA in over 10 years
- Women's Soccer had the overall highest GPA: 3.493, and its highest on record
- Men's Crew had the highest GPA on the men's side at 3.30

Fall 2016 Cumulative GPA:

Team	Cumulative Quality Points	Cumulative Hours	Cumulative GPA
M. Lacrosse	7974.756	2772	2.877
M. Basketball	2718.98	935	2.908
M. T&F/XC	8529.259	2891	2.950
W. T&F/XC	8643.396	2623	3.295
M. Rowing	6242.034	1897	3.290
W. Basketball	2879.702	983	2.930
W. Lacrosse	7615.078	2468	3.086
Football	15773.444	5614	2.810
Tennis	1276.999	371	3.442
M. Soccer	4155.691	1316	3.158
Ice Hockey	3913.372	1292	3.029
Softball	2441.369	830	2.941
Volleyball	2243.06	676	3.318
W. Soccer	4783.379	1383	3.459
W. Rowing	8606.781	2550	3.375
Field Hockey	4045.679	1325	3.053
All Teams	91842.979	29926	3.07

Spring 2017 Semester:

Team	SP17 CREDIT HOURS	SP16 QUALITY POINTS	SP17 GPA
M. Basketball	230	592.011	2.574
W. Basketball	205	575.674	2.808
M. Rowing	583	1869.679	3.207
W. Rowing	614.5	2078.012	3.382
Tennis	108	371.3338	3.438
W. Soccer	303	1080.339	3.565
M. Soccer	255	812.007	3.184
Ice Hockey	336	1111.337	3.308
Volleyball	420	1301.017	3.098
Softball	290	958.676	3.306
M. T&F/XC	616	1948.324	3.163
W. T&F/XC	578	1898.016	3.284
M. Lacrosse	731	2162.691	2.959
W. Lacrosse	588.5	1740.374	2.957
Field Hockey	280	891.006	3.182
Football	1208	3398.018	2.813
Overall	7346	22788.51	3.102

Spring 2017 GPA highlights:

Spring Semester Overall GPA: **3.102**

Student-Athlete Cumulative GPA: **3.08**

64% of all student-athletes had a GPA above **3.0**

Ice Hockey, Softball and Women's Soccer recorded all-time high semester GPA's

Women's Soccer had the highest overall semester GPA: **3.565**

Men's Crew had the highest GPA on the men's side **3.207**

Notable Achievements or Activities by the FOC (2016-17): The Faculty Oversight Committee enjoyed a productive year with the following highlights noted:

- As part of guidelines revised in late 2015, the FOC conducted its first full year as a seven-member entity in order to facilitate a majority position for situations requiring a vote. Adding to the FOC membership also allowed for greater university integration of qualified faculty.
- The FOC added two new members in July 2016: Dr. Kevin Antshel (Psychology – Arts and Sciences) and Dr. Jamie Winders (Geography – Maxwell – Arts and Sciences). Both professors provided significant familiarity with intercollegiate athletics and produced a valuable document on student-athlete clustering that spurred significant discussion and the potential to create a new Student Admissions Committee during the 2017-18 academic year. Their report was issued to the Provost, Dean of Admissions and Athletic Director in early February 2017.
- An informal gathering was held in May 2017 at the Falk College’s Dean’s Conference Room with the Chancellor attending to thank the FOC for their service.
- The FOC conducted NCAA-mandated exit interviews of Syracuse student-athletes finishing their eligibility at Syracuse in December 2016 and May 2017. A report of the December findings was shared with the Chancellor in February 2017 (see the executive summary in this document’s Appendix). The May 2017 report was issued in August 2017.
- The FOC heard one student-athlete appeal when a Syracuse student-athlete requested oversight by the FOC in a matter involving his request to transfer to another institution. The decision by the FOC was provided to the Director of Compliance in mid-August 2017, and it was to deny the appeal.
- Additionally, the FOC will meet with SU’s director of compliance (as stipulated in Responsibilities No. 8) on September 11, 2017, to review the University’s compliance system and recent performance.

Finally, while not a part of the specific period reflected in this report, the FOC met (as required in the FOC guidelines) during the first two weeks of the Fall 2016 semester and formally welcomed Dr. Antshel and Dr. Winders into this service-based group.

Summary: With new Athletic Director John Wildhack finishing his first year, the FOC has continued to work closely with the senior athletics staff, the assistant provost for student-athlete academic development (Tommy Powell), associate provost (Dr. Jeff Stanton) and the director of compliance (Mark Wheeler). FOC members believe equality of attention for all SU teams (regardless of revenue generation) and all SU athletes is critical to our charter.

As such, the FOC continues its vigilance in serving as “a permanent part of the review of the intercollegiate athletic program at Syracuse University” and the athletic department’s adherence to the University’s academic standards. The FOC also plays a distinct role in assessing the student-athlete experience at Syracuse and in monitoring the academic performance and environment of Syracuse varsity athletics. The FOC is one way in which SU’s commitment to maintaining an athletic program devoted to academic integrity and rules compliance is evident.

Respectfully submitted by Rick Burton (FAR) on behalf of the FOC on September 1, 2017

Appendix

FOC Fall 2016 Student-Athlete Exit Interviews – Conducted December 13, 2016

Executive Summary

- 1) As noted in previous exit reports, SU athletes are aware that for many sports, SU training facilities (specifically “The Cage”) and locker rooms are less than what they see/imagine exist at peer ACC institutions. Many SAs feel we have too many teams working on not enough equipment.
- 2) Time management remains an area where SU athletes could, in general, benefit from workshops or professional support on developing better time management skills. Many athletes feel their sport is a full-time job and they struggle with the balance between practices, games, school work, tests and a social life. Some students are much better than others at “Time Management” so this process is tricky to optimize because the poor managers must be discovered during their four years (and before it is too late).
- 3) There was limited notation of some athletes feeling isolated. One student athlete suggested that student-athletes who don’t play often can find themselves without a strong sense of identity. They have to be at practice all the time (e.g., no social life) but no one sees them play. One suggestion (concept untested) was to create study hours for student-athletes with “regular students”.
- 4) There continues to be a need to assist student-athletes with career development (career planning) and preparing for life after college [Of note, Professor Burton has just finished a book to be published in 2017 for student-athletes who won’t turn pro in their sport that speaks to how student-athletes can better leverage their time at university]. Please note: Tommy Powell’s department has staged multiple career fairs but students may be articulating that they want more counseling in this space.
- 5) Multiple interviews suggested SU’s medical (athletic training) staffing was excellent. There was also positive feedback on academic support/advising. There was, though, one comment made that suggested that if a student-athlete is doing well in school, the Syracuse academic coordinators may take less of interest in the S-A and their plans. This is an opportunity for our Academic Support Staff to create programming for our highest achieving student-athletes.
- 6) One student-athlete appeared to have a “problem” with SU’s involvement with Koch Industries at SU sporting events. This student felt the company had a “partisan political nature” and that SU was implicated with Koch’s ideology.
- 7) The Stevenson Center (while already acknowledged as one of the smallest in the ACC) would benefit from the addition of more “quiet rooms”. This is driven in part because Stevenson generally operates at maximum capacity and many tutoring sessions currently take place in rooms with other student-athletes present. As noted previously, computer equipment at Stevenson is both scarce and the server is sometimes unable to handle the load.
- 8) There was a notation that the Grab n Go meal service at Manley Field House is excellent but that additional variety would be appreciated.
- 9) Women’s Soccer players felt not enough social media presence for their sport and that more should be done to increase attendance and connect the team more with campus. This may be a function of athletes who were on top high school teams and were acknowledged often during high school. When they arrive at Syracuse, their sport receives much less attention, particularly when the two basketball teams start practicing.

Appendix

FOC Winter 2017 Student-Athlete Exit Interviews – Conducted May 3, 2017

Executive Summary

- 1) SU student-athletes (SAs) remain desirous of Mental Health support. That matter will be addressed with the creation of a full-time therapy counselor starting in Fall 2017
- 2) SU training facilities (specifically “The Cage”) in Manley Field House (MFH) and certain locker rooms (women’s rowing in specific) are less than what SAs see/imagine exist at peer ACC institutions. Many SAs feel we have too many teams working on not enough equipment and that there is miscommunication about practice schedules in MFH. In short, The Cage has become the de facto catch-all location for every sport except FB and M/W BB. Additionally, as one SA said, “there were too many teams for one trainer and the space was too small. Is it possible to use football’s training room? [Non-football] team members feel they are viewed as a minor sport [and this is conveyed] via social media.”
- 3) There was an indication in at least one interview that freshmen could receive better advising about the concept of ‘majors’. This topic is not new to the FOC and we continue to hear reports of athletes forced into majors they did not want. Further, there was a suggestion that Stevenson advisors and college advisors (on campus) need to communicate more often and more fully because of conflicting advice. Lastly, there were some limitations noted as it relates to tutors in rigorous/demanding upper-division courses (“I got a tutor for my Finance class but the tutor didn’t know what I was asking him. So I had to do a lot on my own.”). Phrased another way, an audit of upper-division tutorial capacity should be considered.
- 4) As always, first-year management of weak academic students is critical and efforts must be proactively made to predict the athletes that are at risk. One student commented: “I didn’t come in as a great student and felt very much on my own my first year. They didn’t schedule me well and I almost flunked out. On paper I looked like I was ready for college but I wasn’t. No one did anything until it was ‘code red.’ We need pre-care (early in the semester) rather than protecting eligibility (late in the semester).”
 - a. Note: This is not an indictment of Tommy Powell’s area but more a discussion of how our entire collaborative can help weak students with time management and the significant shift from high school to college. Additionally, coaches need to be alerted that students may self-identify that they are struggling academically and those coaches must engage Tommy Powell or his staff.
 - b. Additionally, SAs need to feel comfortable letting someone know that a particular tutor is not suited to the class they are tutoring (“I was taking Middle Eastern Studies and got a Middle Ages History tutor.”)
- 5) One athlete suggested that team rules for off-the-field behavior are too vague and that SA drinking on her team was a problem but that, at least on her team, no clear guidelines exist
- 6) Women’s rowing continues to feel there are no facilities for them at Manley and not enough locker space at the boat house (for the number of SAs involved). Additionally, there was commentary about VB and Tennis having to share a locker room
- 7) One athlete suggested that coaches (in a particular sport) were making comments about physical appearance which was leading to unhealthy eating habits. This commentary may suggest the ongoing need for coaches to more closely consider their language and to engage a nutritionist or nutritional support
- 8) Time management remains an area where SU athletes could, in general, benefit from workshops or professional support on developing better time management skills. Many athletes feel their

sport is a full-time job and they struggle with the balance between practices, games, school work, tests and a social life. Some students are much better than others at “Time Management” so this process is tricky to optimize because the poor managers must be discovered during their four years (and before it is too late)

- 9) There continues to be a need to assist student-athletes with career development (career planning) and preparing for life after college. This area is ably managed by Mark Trumbo which has been moved from Tommy Powell’s area into SU Athletics but appear to be experiencing an increase in post-graduate career support
- 10) The Stevenson Center was praised in numerous interviews with superlatives for instructional assistance but a comment was made that “It would have been better if [on occasions when] tutors needed to cancel—[that they give] at least give 24 hour notice.”
- 11) There was no indication of a “party-school” culture but it was acknowledged that each incoming freshman class brings a unique approach to alcohol and recreational drug use. Variations logically exist in the amount of underage drinking exhibited by each SU team. To that end, each coaching staff should be vigilant as to how their ‘after-practice’ culture evolves or shifts each September.
- 12) There was a suggestion that an academic van running from MFH to campus would help SAs get to class on time (rather than relying solely on the bus system)
- 13) The ‘Grab-N-Go’ food provision was considered to be much improved with one SA suggesting ‘Grab-N-Go’ on main campus would be a welcome addition. That may come about with the construction of the refurbished Arch in 2019.
- 14) Coaches should be reminded again of race sensitivity and that commentary about clothing, braided hair or other forms of self-identification may be construed as racist or racially insensitive
- 15) The athletic director and all coaches should be advised to consider the role of walk-ons and how they view themselves. As one walk-on explained, “Sadly, I never spoke with the head coach at all. I was a walk-on during my junior year. It felt like walk-ons were treated differently.”
- 16) The athletic director should be advised that contemporary students watch the medical prognosis protocol carefully and often, if they do not return to the level they believe they once played at, may look to place blame on the medical staff or athletic trainers. One athlete suggested, “I had problems with my leg but the trainers just weren’t getting it. They couldn’t get to the root of the problem.”