

UNIVERSITY SENATE
ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT 2020-21

Committee Name: Intercollegiate Athletics

Number of meetings held this year: 1

Committee Chair: Dan Drutz

Committee Members: (list here)

Jason Brooks (student)

Liam Cutri-French (student)

Joanne Bullard

Valerie Carabetta

Patrick Crumrine

Pam Marshall

Tiffany Tillman

John Giannini

Bonnie Angelone

Ryan Barrett

Purpose of/Charge to Committee:

Monitors the entire operation of intercollegiate sports on the campus.

Summary of Activities this Year:

We met at the beginning of the year to discuss what would happen with sports for the academic year. We were told by Dr. Giannini that there would be no sports in the fall, the winter was in doubt, and there had been no discussions about the spring. It was evident that the safety of the athletes and staff were paramount. The NCAA's decision to allow students an extra year of eligibility also made the decision a little easier to make as far as not playing games. Teams did practice in the fall and winter in small groups wearing masks when necessary. The athletes and staff were tested regularly in conjunction with the Rec Center and Wellness Center.

Dan was in contact with Dr. G throughout the year and was told when the decision was made to cancel winter sports and to play spring sports. The decision was made at the highest levels of administration and with a lot of consideration of the health and safety of everyone on campus.

Here is a summary of what was done for the spring:

All student-athletes and coaches are tested twice a week. All our student-athletes are screened for temperature and symptoms before every practice and competitions. Opponents must attest that they have been Covid-19 screened the day of the competition and have received a negative test result within 72 hours. Masks are worn and social distancing takes place except when actually competing. Spectators are allowed, but only two family members per student-athlete are admitted via a pass list to insure spacing in our facilities. No

visiting team guests are allowed. Those not on the pass list are able to watch from a distance on property outside the athletic facility. Several games have been cancelled out of an abundance of caution because of positive tests and contact tracing by opponents or our teams. As a result, there has been great confidence that the games that have taken place have been done so safely. All of our measures have equaled or exceeded NCAA recommendations.

Roster sizes will expand next year in the following way to accommodate new recruiting and allow any students who wish to use an extra year as per NCAA guidelines to remain on the team. Each team will have their normal roster size to accommodate new recruits plus any 5th year returnees who want to use their final year of eligibility that was affected by covid-19.

SUGGESTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Suggestions:

One issue that comes up year after year is our Baseball, Softball and Lacrosse teams have issues with playing facilities for postseason due to commencement. This year is going to be especially tough on baseball because they are missing out on at least one weekend of playoff games due to commencement and the new format. I think that the University has to play a bigger role in helping athletics find facilities to use off-campus in a proactive approach, instead of a reactive approach. We need to just assume that our teams are going to be in the postseason and find them a place to play each year. If we don't host, then we don't need it, but at least we have it. I think that funds are part of that, but if the University truly has a commitment to athletics, then they should help subsidize this in order for our students to have the best possible experience.

Recommendations: