

Faculty Athletics Representative Report to the University Senate

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This report outlines the Faculty Athletics Representative's (FAR) portfolio, provides data related to the academic performance of student-athletes, and discusses current NCAA and Sun Belt Conference issues related to the academic/athletic life of student-athletes.

The Role of the FAR

The NCAA mandates that an institution designates a member of the institution's faculty to serve in the role of Faculty Athletics Representative. The FAR is recognized as the representative of the institution and its faculty in the relationship between the NCAA and the campus.

The FAR is appointed by and reports directly to the University President. The responsibilities of the FAR include the following:

- Monitor the eligibility of student-athletes
- Review compliance with NCAA/Sun Belt rules and regulations
- Support student-athlete academic performance and well-being
- Receive and review self-reports of secondary violations and be active in investigations of potential major violations
- Coordinate annual administration of coaches' recruiting tests
- Work with the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
- Represent the University at NCAA, 1AFAR and Sun Belt Conference meetings
- Serve as a liaison between UL Lafayette Athletics and the Faculty
- Assure the academic integrity of the athletics program
- Serve on the University Athletics Committee
- Serve as advisor to the President for intercollegiate athletes in relation to the University mission

The FAR works very closely with the UL Lafayette Athletic Department, the Student-Athlete Academic Center, and the Registrar's office.

Student-Athlete Academic Performance

The NCAA provides several national measures of student-athlete performance including the Academic Progress Report (APR) and the Graduation Success Rate (GSR). Along with the GSR, the NCAA provides Federal Graduate Rate (FGR) data. Detailed reports on these measures are available on the NCAA website:

<http://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/research/division-i-academic-progress-rate-apr>

<http://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/research/graduation-success-rate>

There is a lot of interesting information at these sites not only on UL Lafayette results but on general statistics by class rate and class rate by sport.

Graduation Success Rate (GSR) and Federal Graduation Rate (FGR)

The NCAA developed the GSR to include the performance of transfer students in the metric. The FGR measures the performance of students from the first to the sixth year without accounting for transfer students. The GSR includes transfer students and provides a more complete picture of the student-athlete experience.

For the 2011-2012 cohort, the University reported a GSR of 76% and a FGR of 57%.

Academic Progress Rate (APR)

APR measures success in maintaining student-athletes' athletic and academic eligibility. It is calculated as follows:

- Each student-athlete receiving athletically related financial aid earns one point for staying in school and one point for being academically eligible (per semester).
- A team's total points are divided by points possible and then multiplied by 1,000 to equal the team's Academic Progress Rate.
- In addition to a team's current-year APR, its rolling four-year APR is also used to determine accountability.

Teams must maintain a four-year APR of 930 or above to compete in championships. In the most recent NCAA report, all UL Lafayette teams were well above the required 930 four-year APR, with a range of team APRs of 956-993. The Women's Cross Country squad was at 993. Sports with small team rosters are more affected by students not achieving their full 4 points each year.

Sunbelt/NCAA Honors/1A FAR

Our student-athletes received numerous honors from the Sunbelt Conference including the Commissioner's Academic List. Four student-athletes received Academic Excellence Awards by the 1A Faculty Athletics Representatives association. Dylan Moore was selected as the Sun Belt Conference's Male Post-Graduate Scholarship winner. On the national level, Vlad Kramarov was awarded one of 29 NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarships.

UL Lafayette Student-Athlete GPA

Taking a broader look at student-athlete academic performance in Spring 2018, the Student-Athlete Academic Center reported the following:

- The 334 student-athletes achieved a semester GPA of 2.801.
 - The female student-athlete population earned a semester GPA of 3.049, exceeding the female general student population semester GPA of 2.981.
- The spring 2018 semester GPA of all male student-athletes was 2.630.
- The 334 student-athletes achieved an adjusted GPA of 3.013.

- 48.8% (n=163) of all student-athletes (334) earned a 3.0 or above semester GPA.
- 63.8% (n=84) of all female student-athletes (132) earned a 3.0 or above semester GPA.
- 39.1% (n=79) of all male student-athletes (202) earned a 3.0 or above semester GPA.
- 26 student-athletes earned a 4.0 semester GPA.
- 35 student-athletes graduated. Three of the 35 graduated with honors.
- 8 teams recorded a semester GPA of 3.0 or higher:
 1. Women's Cross Country (3.803)
 2. Golf (3.554)
 3. Soccer (3.341)
 4. Women's Tennis (3.240)
 5. Men's Tennis (3.087)
 6. Volleyball (3.054)
 7. Men's Cross Country (3.012)
 8. Softball (3.006)

Distribution of Majors

Student-athletes are currently enrolled in 45 different majors distributed by the following colleges

- College of the Arts – 6
- B.I. Moody College of Business Administration – 79
- College of Education – 79
- College of Engineering – 34
- College of Liberal Arts – 50
- College of Nursing – 12
- Ray P. Authement College of Sciences – 26
- University College – 113

Admission by Committee

A small number of student-athletes are admitted through the University's special admission process. Of these, some student-athletes have the required ACT scores and GPA but, because they are from out of state, may lack core courses. In 2017-2018 eighteen students were admitted by committee; in 2018-2019 the Athletic Department requested that 16 student-athletes be admitted by committee.

Athletic Issues

Secondary/Level III Violations

The Compliance Office has an aggressive and effective education program in place to make sure that everyone involved in UL Lafayette Athletics has knowledge of the complex sets of regulations governing intercollegiate sports and of all relevant University policies and practices. Even so, given the complexity

of the regulatory environment, it is highly unlikely that any athletic department can completely avoid minor NCAA rule violations. The University self-reported 8 Secondary/Level III violations for 2017-2018:

- A Coach sent an impermissible form of electronic correspondence prior to the September 1 of the PSAs junior year in high school
- A student-athlete did not receive her AA degree after transferring as a 2-4 Final non-Qualifier
- A men's golf student-athlete engaged in countable athletically related activity outside of the declared playing season during an institutional vacation period
- A football student-athlete competed in 9 contests while not meeting the progress-toward-degree requirements
- A football intern staff member tweeted a post from a PSA regarding the PSAs visit to campus
- The Director of Baseball operations participated in on-field activities during a team practice
- Student-athletes used host money to purchase items for prospective student-athletes during an official visit
- A football quality control staff member tweeted a post from a PSA

Time Demands on Student-athletes

Countable Athletically Related Activity (CARA):

Time demands (i.e. the amount of time student-athletes are required to devote to activity directly related to their sport) has been the subject of significant discussion and NCAA legislation in recent years. The NCAA regulates the amount of time that student-athletes may spend in practice and competition and requires each institution to closely monitor compliance with these regulations.

Countable athletically related activities (CARA) include any required activity with an athletic purpose involving the student-athletes and at the direction of, or supervised by, one or more of an institution's coach staff (including strength and conditioning coaches) and must be counted within the weekly and daily limitations. Administrative activities such as academic meetings or compliance meetings are not considered as CARA.

Competition Schedules

The University Athletics Committee reviews competition schedules for all sports. The committee adopted a class absence policy which is consistent with that of other Sun Belt Conference universities. For regular competition, student-athletes may miss no more than five (5) Tuesday/Thursday classes and seven (7) Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes. Sun Belt championships and post season play are not included in these limits. The committee looks carefully at the individual teams especially the team GPA and may recommend that representatives from the Student-Athlete Academic Center accompany a team to away games. Many of the coaches conduct organized study halls while on travel for competition.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information. Geaux Cajuns!

Respectfully submitted,

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