

Faculty Athletics Representative Report to the University Senate

October 2017

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Fall 2017

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>

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 2009-1010 cohort, the University reported a GSR of 80% and a FGR of 66%. In the most recent GSR report following the 2010-2011 cohort, the University reported a GSR of 81% and a FGR of 62%. The University's FGR for student-athletes led the Sun Belt Conference for the 2016-2017 academic year.

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 954-1,000. Men's Cross-Country continues to achieve annual APRs of 1,000 and was recognized by the NCAA for this accomplishment. For the 2015-2016 reporting year, Men's Cross Country, Women's Tennis and Women's Volleyball all achieved a 1,000 APR. Sports with small team rosters are more affected by students not achieving their full 4 points each year.

UL Lafayette Student-Athlete GPA

The University had four Academic All-Americans in Spring of 2017 and since 1980 has had 27 All-Americans. Taking a broader look at student-athlete academic performance in Spring 2017, the Student-Athlete Academic Center reported the following:

- The 352 student-athletes achieved a semester GPA of 2.973. The average spring 2017 semester GPA of all student-athletes (2.973) surpassed that of the general student body (2.866).
- The female student-athlete population earned a semester GPA of 3.167, exceeding the female general student population semester GPA of 2.975.
- The spring 2017 semester GPA of all male student-athletes (2.849) was higher than the GPA of the male general student body (2.726).
- The 352 student-athletes achieved an adjusted GPA of 3.011.

- 55.6% (n=196) of all student-athletes (352) earned a 3.0 or above semester GPA.
- 69.7% (n=97) of all female student-athletes (139) earned a 3.0 or above semester GPA.
- 46.4% (n=99) of all male student-athletes (213) earned a 3.0 or above semester GPA.
- 34 student-athletes earned a 4.0 semester GPA.
- 40 student-athletes graduated. Twelve of the 40 graduated with honors.
- 8 teams recorded a semester GPA of 3.0 or higher:
 1. Women's Cross Country (3.469)
 2. Softball (3.416)
 3. Men's Cross Country (3.401)
 4. Soccer (3.330)
 5. Men's Tennis (3.312)
 6. Women's Tennis (3.200)
 7. Men's Track (3.1745)
 8. Women's Track (3.1741)

Distribution of Majors

In Spring of 2017, student-athletes enrolled in 46 different majors distributed by the following Colleges

- College of the Arts – 5
- B.I. Moody College of Business Administration – 78
- College of Education – 87
- College of Engineering – 33
- College of Liberal Arts – 47
- College of Nursing – 12
- Ray P. Authement College of Sciences – 24
- 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 2016-2017, twelve students were admitted by committee and in 2017-2018 eighteen students were 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 11 Secondary/Level III violations for 2016-2017:

- An assistant coach sent an impermissible tweet that promoted the Ragin' Cajuns football staff at a non-institutional camp
- Two incoming student-athletes engaged in voluntary strength and conditioning workouts prior to receiving their mandatory medical examination
- A football student-athlete was paid for work not actually performed
- An assistant coach had in-person, on-campus contact with a 4-year transfer PSA during a designated recruiting dead period
- A recruit's brother was provided with individual lodging while accompanying the PSA on an official visit to UL
- A student-athlete practiced prior to completing the student-athlete statement and drug testing consent forms
- A student-athlete impermissibly used his image and likeness to sell t-shirts on his website
- A staff member sent recruiting materials to prospective student-athletes in impermissible envelopes
- A coach had on-campus contact with a PSA during a dead period
- An article was published in regard to the 2017-2018 incoming volleyball class. A PSA was included that had not yet been admitted into the University
- A student-athlete used an institutional facility to conduct private lessons

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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