

Minutes of the University Athletics Committee
University of Kentucky
Thursday, June 15, 2023

The University Athletics Committee of the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees met on Thursday, June 15, 2023, 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 4:48 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 Todd Case, Ray Daniels, David Melanson and Rachel Webb; Community Advisory Member Wells Bullard; Faculty Athletics Representative Joe Fink. Community Advisory Member Vickie Bell attended the meeting via Zoom and Trustee Skip Berry and Community Advisory Member Wilbur Hackett were absent.

III. Chairs Report

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2023, meeting. Trustee Webb moved approval of the minutes, and Trustee Daniels seconded the motion. The motion carried without dissent.

Chair Melanson introduced President Capilouto for remarks.

IV. President's Remarks

The president stated that there had been remarkable milestones and highlights from the year and that Director Barnhart and his team continue to do an extraordinary job. He discussed innovative programs and academic support made available to the student-athletes and how the Athletics Department is committed to putting students first every day.

V. Athletics Director's Report

Athletics Director Barnhart reported that eight of the winter sports teams competed in the postseason, led by Harry Mullins' rifle team, which finished third at the NCAA Championships after winning the Great America Conference regular-season championship. Freshman Sofia Ceccarello earned first-team All-America honors in every category.

Director Barnhart announced that the gymnastics team tied for its best finish in school history, finishing sixth at the NCAA Championships. The team was led by Raena

Worley, who was a finalist for the Honda Award as the national gymnast of the year. Rachel Garrison and Chad Wiest were named Central Region Assistant Coaches of the Year and Heather McAtee was named Region Administrator of the Year.

Mr. Barnhart continued by recognizing some additional achievements by the winter athletes including:

- Oscar Tshiebwe was consensus All-America for the second year in a row while leading the men's basketball team to the NCAA Tournament;
- Masai Russell's performance for the indoor track team. Masai set the collegiate record in the 60-meter hurdles, winning the gold medal at the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Championships and the silver medal at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Championships. Track and Field Head Coach Lonnie Greene was named Southeast Region Coach of the Year.
- UK's women's and men's swimming and diving teams placed 19th and 28th, respectively, at the NCAA Championships. It is the sixth consecutive top-20 finish by the UK women.
- STUNT has been designated as an emerging sport by the NCAA. That is the next step toward STUNT becoming an official Division I sport. UK's STUNT team finished as national runner-up in the season-ending event.

Director Barnhart continued with the spring sports report and announced that six of UK's teams played in the NCAA Tournament or scored points at their NCAA Championship Meet.

- The men's tennis team won the SEC Tournament in an amazing comeback story.
- In the semifinals against Tennessee, UK came from behind to win 4-3.
- In the finals against Georgia, a team that was undefeated this season in SEC play, the team got behind 3-1. All three of the remaining singles players lost their first set, had to win the final two sets, and did just that for a 4-3 team win.
- Over the two days, the Wildcats faced elimination points six times – five times with the opponent serving – yet won all six points to keep the match alive.
- Also, during those two days, the Wildcats had four sets that went to tiebreakers, and the Cats won all four of the tiebreakers.
- Led by All-Americans Liam Draxl and Alafia Ayeni, the team reached the quarterfinals of the NCAA Championships, where we were defeated by Virginia, the eventual national champion. We lost 4-2 but were leading on the seventh court when Virginia clinched the match. Had we reversed just a couple of points, we would have won the match. Interesting to note that Virginia routed its next two opponents, 4-0 and 4-1, so we were that close

to possibly winning the national title. Congrats to Coach Cedric Kauffman on another fine season.

- Led by All-Americans Laney Frye and Jensen Castle, the women's golf team broke 11 team and individual school records during the year while advancing to the NCAA Regional. It is worth noting that both of those players return next year.
- The softball team also had two All-Americans, Kayla Kowalik and Erin Coffel, who led the Wildcats to their 14th consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance.
- The men's and women's track and field teams wrapped up their seasons at the NCAA Championships, highlighted by a sixth-place finish by the women's team, which won three silver medals. Masai Russell followed up with a great outdoor season. She broke another collegiate record, this time in the 100-meter hurdles. She won three silver medals at the NCAAs, two individual medals and one on the 4x100 relay.
- The baseball team earned a No. 12 national seed and hosted an NCAA Regional. Record crowds packed Kentucky Proud Park to watch the Wildcats come out of the losers' bracket, winning three games in the final 33 hours, to win the regional championship.
- The team totaled 40 wins, only the seventh time in school history UK has reached that level, and the second time under Coach Mingione.

Director Barnhart continued by reporting the hiring of two new coaches in the program's spring sports:

- Men's Golf Coach Gator Todd. He has been the assistant coach at Vanderbilt for the last six years, helping the Commodores finish in the top 10 of the NCAA Tournament four times.
- Women's Tennis Coach Shelley Jaudon. She comes to UK from James Madison, where her teams earned the first NCAA Tournament bids in school history. A fun note on Shelley is that her father, Al Godwin, was a football player at UK in the late 1960s.

Director Barnhart announced that the Directors' Cup national all-sports standings were updated earlier that week. Among the 358 Division I schools, Kentucky is currently No. 20 in the nation and seventh in the SEC. When the final standings are updated after the baseball championship, UK will finish in the top 20, which will mark the sixth consecutive year for UK's overall sports program to rank in the nation's 20.

Director Barnhart continued his report by highlighting student-athlete academic accomplishments including:

- Last month at Commencement, 126 student-athletes graduated, the most ever for UK Athletics, and along with the 41 from December, totaled 167 for this academic year. Nineteen of those graduates earned master's degrees.

- The next week, UK's student-athletes compiled a 3.338 Grade Point Average (GPA) for the spring semester. That is the 22nd consecutive semester and 11 years in a row that UK's student-athletes have been above 3.0.
- Sixty-six athletes were on the SEC Winter Sports Academic Honor Roll, the fifth-most in the league. The spring sports honor roll has yet to be announced.
- Last month, the NCAA Academic Progress Rates were released, showing that all of UK's teams exceeded the mandated score. In addition, 16 of UK's 20 teams exceeded or tied the national average in their sports, and with all team scores combined, UK's overall mark exceeded the national average.
- During this school year, UK has had 10 student-athletes already elected to the official Academic All-America teams sponsored by the Collegiate Sports Communicators, breaking the school record of nine Academic All-Americans set in each of the last two years.

Director Barnhart recognized UK chemistry professor John Anthony as the recipient of an SEC Faculty Achievement Award.

Director Barnhart provided an update on facilities including:

- The Kroger Field playing surface has been replaced and is in use.
- The renovation of the Nutter Field House is expected to be complete by the time football practice begins in August.
- The construction of the indoor track remains on schedule to be completed by the end of this year.
- The Memorial Coliseum renovation is underway and expect to have the competition areas done by the fall of 2024, with the remainder of the building soon to follow. Volleyball, women's basketball and gymnastics events will be played in Rupp Arena during the upcoming school year. A few women's basketball games are expected to be played at Transylvania.

Director Barnhart highlighted accomplishments off the field, including:

- The 21st annual CATSPY Awards occurred in April where a total of 44 individuals and eight teams were recognized. Masai Russell, Kayla Kowalik, Kaitlynn Wheeler and Raena Worley were named Miss Wildcat while Eli Cox was named Mr. Wildcat. Eli also was one of only four student-athletes from SEC schools chosen to represent all the league's student-athletes at the recent SEC Spring Meetings.
- After serving at the UK Children's Hospital for the last three years, and with Special Olympics for the two years prior to that, the UK Student-Athlete Advisory Committee has chosen Fayette County Public Schools as the new "Community Partner of Choice" for the coming year. The Athletics Department has always had some involvement with local schools, and they look forward to deepening that relationship.
- The Kentucky High School Athletic Association held state championships in UK's facilities in track and field, softball and tennis. This is important for the department and the university as UK recruits students and athletes and strengthens ties to the

flagship educational institution of the Commonwealth. It is also important to the city of Lexington, bringing people to hotels, restaurants, shops and other businesses.

- Tom Leach, UK's play-by-play announcer for football and men's basketball, along with UK women's sports pioneer Brigid DeVries, were elected to the state's Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame and will be enshrined in September.

In conclusion, Director Barnhart recognized the passing of Wildcat legend Charles "Cotton" Nash, a two-sport star in basketball and baseball, and a retired jersey honoree. Cotton was one of only 13 athletes who has played both in the National Basketball Association (NBA) and Major League Baseball. If the old American Basketball Association was in the mix, he was the only person ever to play in all three of those professional leagues. Cotton and his family lived in Lexington and continued to be true blue Wildcats. We are grateful for his contributions to the heritage of the university.

Director Barnhart then recognized Community Advisory Member Vickie Bell and her husband Wendell who were awarded the Heart of the Wildcat award. He shared that they set an example for UK's student-athletes and everyone associated with the program. "They have been with us through thick and thin, through so many years and we could not do it without them. They are among the deepest supporters of the Athletics program and this award is emblematic of everything they have done for Kentucky."

Chair Melanson thanked Director Barnhart and recognized Trustee McCoy for comments, who applauded the State Track and Field event hosted by UK earlier that month.

Chair Melanson introduced Executive Associate Athletics Director Melissa Gleason to review the Athletics Department Interim Financial Report for March 31, 2023, and the Athletics Department Budget for FY 2023-24.

VI. Business Items

Athletics Department Interim Financial Report for March 31, 2023

Executive Associate Athletics Director Gleason began by discussing the quarterly statement ending March 31, 2023, and detailed the schedule of unrestricted funds revenue showing the current operating budget that flows through to the final NCAA Report.

Director Gleason reported that the department was at 81 percent of budget which is where it should be at this time. Ms. Gleason pointed out revenues are more front ended on the football and men's basketball programs as those seasons are completed by the end of March, so more of the revenue is recognized on the front end versus the last quarter.

Ms. Gleason continued by discussing expenses and reported the department is currently at 80 percent, which is where it should be for three quarters through the year

due to expenses being recognized over a 12-month period. She recognized the entire Athletics Department for being good stewards of the budget.

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to approve the interim financial report for March 31, 2023. Trustee Webb moved approval and Trustee Case seconded the motion. Chair Melanson asked if there were any questions and introduced Trustee Cramer who asked about current liabilities listed in the report. Director Gleason explained that the figure will fluctuate a lot due to the cash flow that comes in at the end of the year and is a normal variability. With no further questions, Chair Melanson called for a vote and the motion carried without dissent.

Athletics Department Budget for the period of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Director Gleason continued by presenting the Athletics Department Budget for FY 2023-24. She detailed three nonnegotiable high-level categories, including salaries and benefits, scholarships and academic awards, and other obligations. After adjusting for those items, Ms. Gleason reported the adjusted operating budget was \$42,005,741 million, and an overall budget increase of \$10,966,225 million from FY2022-23 (6.6%).

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to approve the Athletics Department Budget for the period of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. Trustee Case moved approval, and Trustee Webb seconded the motion. It carried without dissent.

With no further discussion, Chair Melanson thanked Director Gleason and introduced Director Barnhart for comments.

VII. Other Business and Adjournment

Mr. Barnhart discussed the conference expansion with the additions of Oklahoma and Texas on July 1, 2024, making a total of 16 teams in UK's league. He added that football will not have split divisions but will be one division and the top two teams will advance to the SEC Championship. Director Barnhart reviewed the newly released football schedule and noted that the basketball schedule had not been released yet.

Chair Melanson thanked Director Barnhart and reminded the Committee that the full Athletics Report had been loaded to Directors Desk. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectively submitted,



Katie Hardwick

University Athletics Committee Secretary