

Minutes of the University Athletics Committee  
University of Kentucky  
Thursday, June 13, 2024

The University Athletics Committee of the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees met on Thursday, June 13, 2024, 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 4:30 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, David Melanson, Frank Shoop and Rachel Webb; Community Advisory Member Wilbur Hackett; Faculty Athletics Representative Joe Fink. Trustee Skip Berry and Community Advisory Members Vickie Bell and Wells Bullard attended the meeting via Zoom.

III. Chairs Report

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2024, meeting. Trustee Webb moved approval of the minutes, and Trustee Case seconded the motion. The motion carried without dissent.

Chair Melanson introduced President Capilouto for remarks.

IV. President's Remarks

The President mentioned the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) preliminary lawsuit which is still in progress and recognized Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart, "We are planning. There are going to be changes, there are significant financial challenges that come with this settlement. We will be turning to you and others for direction, advice and approval. There is no better person to lead us during this transformational change than Mitch Barnhart. I think his record exemplifies how every student-athlete is important, regardless of the sport in which they participate. Mitch has an expression he repeats often, he wants to see championship rings on fingers and diplomas in hands, and the record shows that we have lived up to that promise."

V. Athletics Director's Report

Athletics Director Barnhart stated, "To say there have been some changes at UK and college athletics since we last met in February would be a bit of an understatement and I will discuss this later in my report."

Director Barnhart continued by reporting on the University's winter sports:

- Coach Harry Mullins' rifle team turned in another solid season. Led by All-Americans Sofia Ceccarello and Braden Peiser, UK finished fourth at the NCAA Championships. It is the fourth consecutive year that the Wildcats have finished fourth in the nation or higher.
- Led by five athletes named All-America, the gymnastics team again advanced to the NCAA Regionals. Guided by Tim Garrison, the SEC Co-Coach of the Year, the Wildcats' third-place finish at the ultra-competitive Southeastern Conference (SEC) Championships is the highest finish in school history.
- The men's indoor track and field team placed 11<sup>th</sup> at the NCAA Championships, the team's best in 28 years. Keaton Daniel won the gold medal in the pole vault and Luke Brown earned silver in the triple jump. The men's and women's teams combined to have six All-Americans.
- The STUNT program continues to get stronger with each passing year. More schools are adding the sport, and we are hoping it will become an official NCAA sport in the coming years. We completed the season by hosting the national championship event for the Division I schools. UK placed second at that event.
- It is an exciting time for UK women's and men's basketball programs following the hiring of new coaches Kenny Brooks and Mark Pope. Both coaches have had to build new rosters mostly from scratch and have done an extraordinary job in a short amount of time.

Director Barnhart then reported on Spring Sports including:

- The men's tennis team got the spring season off to a great start, going undefeated in winning the SEC regular-season and tournament championships. The team went on to a final record of 27-3, reaching the quarterfinals of the NCAA Tournament for the third consecutive year. Cedric Kauffmann earned SEC Coach of the Year honors.
- Led by All-American Laney Frye, Coach Golda Borst's women's golf team advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the 21<sup>st</sup> time in school history.
- Softball coach Rachel Lawson took her Wildcats to the NCAA Tournament for the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive season. Shortstop Erin Coffel was named All-America for the third consecutive season, the first Wildcat in school history to achieve that feat.

- The men's and women's track teams finished their competition last weekend at the NCAA Championships. Keaton Daniel won the pole vault event again, sweeping the national titles in both the indoor and outdoor events. The men's and women's teams combined to earn 15 All-America honors.
- The baseball team is still active, heading to the College World Series this weekend after sweeping the NCAA Regional and Super Regional tournaments in front of record crowds at Kentucky Proud Park. Coach Nick Mingione's Wildcats have tied the school record for victories with 45 wins.

Director Barnhart continued, "We often speak of our incredible fan base and the strength of the Big Blue Nation has been on powerful display recently when we hired two new basketball coaches as we entered the month of March." Director Barnhart discussed the hiring process, timing and how the coaches have moved quickly to build their rosters.

He highlighted the men's tennis and baseball teams who earned the right to host the NCAA Regional and Super Regional tournaments and recognized the fans who turned out and the facilities and operations staff that worked hundreds of hours to prepare, "They are tireless. I am incredibly thankful for their efforts and the way they represent Kentucky."

Director Barnhart continued with a facilities update:

- The largest project is the \$80 million renovation of Memorial Coliseum. As announced previously, the goal is to have the competition spaces ready in time for volleyball season in August and additional back-of-house areas completed by spring.
- Installation of a new playing field at the Bell Soccer Stadium that should be ready for the start of the men's and women's seasons.
- Installation of a new drainage system and playing field at the Women's Softball John Cropp Stadium.
- Installation of a new LED lighting system and new ribbon boards at Kroger Field.

Director Barnhart continued with an academic update, "While these accomplishments are going on, our student-athletes continue to excel in the classroom."

- Last month at Commencement, the department had 122 student-athletes graduate, including 18 with master's degrees. Along with 41 graduates from December, we totaled 163 for this academic year.

- UK's student-athletes compiled a 3.336 grade point average (GPA) for the spring semester – the 24<sup>th</sup> consecutive semester, 12 years in a row – that the athletes have been above 3.0.
- The department had 59 athletes on the SEC Winter Sports Academic Honor Roll, the fifth-most in the league. The spring sports honor roll has yet to be announced.
- The annual NCAA Academic Progress Rates (APR) were released, showing that all of UK's teams exceeded the mandated score. In addition, 15 UK teams exceeded or tied the national average in their sports. Eight UK teams – a school record – had perfect scores over the four-year evaluation period. There are only two SEC schools that have never had an APR penalty – Vanderbilt and Kentucky.
- Congratulations to Dr. Sherali Zeadally, UK professor of information and communication technology, as the recipient of an SEC Faculty Achievement Award.

Director Barnhart continued by highlighting some off-the-field accomplishments:

- In April, the Athletics Department held the annual CATSPY Awards. A total of 37 individuals and six teams were recognized at the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual celebration. Erin Coffel, Jordyn Rhodes, Azhani Tealer and Raena Worley were named Miss Wildcat while Eli Cox, Keaton Daniel and Devin Burkes were named Mr. Wildcat. A poignant moment of the evening came when we recognized Kate Kaufling of the UK Dance Team, who passed away in March after a battle with bone cancer. Kate was honored with the Mike Lyden Courage Award.
- The Kentucky High School Athletic Association held state championships in UK's facilities in track and field, softball and tennis. Baseball comes up this weekend. This is important for our department and the University as a whole as we recruit students and athletes to UK and strengthen ties to the flagship educational institution of the Commonwealth. It is also important to the city of Lexington for us to bring people to our hotels, restaurants, shops and other businesses.
- One of UK's all-time great basketball players, Tony Delk, and sports media pioneer Oscar Combs of The Cats Pause, were elected to the state's Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame and will be enshrined in September.
- A highlight of the summer will be the Olympic Games, which begin July 26 in Paris, France. Kentucky already has five athletes selected for the United States, including Rhyne Howard in women's basketball, Avery Skinner for volleyball, and a trio of men's basketball players – Bam Adebayo, Devin

Booker and Anthony Davis. We expect additional Wildcats to represent the United States and other countries in the Olympics.

Director Barnhart stated, “Dr. Capilouto mentioned earlier that the NCAA, SEC, and additional conferences, voted to accept the preliminary lawsuit settlement against the member institutions.” The lawsuit addresses three primary issues: payment of back damages for claims relating to name, image and likeness (NIL), academic-related awards and other benefits; increased benefits from institutions to student-athletes going forward, including additional NIL opportunities for student-athletes directly from the institution; and eliminating scholarship limits in favor of roster limits.

Director Barnhart remarked, “I am thankful for the benefits that it can provide our student-athletes. We must do the best job we can by giving our athletes the most we can give them and creating generational opportunities and generational leadership out of all of this. In addition to the benefits they will receive, they will continue to receive an education, academic support, medical and mental health support. Our goal is to make sure that we maintain an educational-based model for college athletics. This is our opportunity to pour into them and give them a chance to prepare for lifelong opportunities.”

Director Barnhart continued, “From a budget standpoint, it will impact us. I am thankful for Dr. Capilouto and Dr. Monday sitting alongside us and trying to find a way through the choppy waters. We have gone through this a couple of times, most recently with COVID. We will continue to try and keep our family whole, and for us, that is 675 student-athletes. We are the largest department in the SEC and we have a tall task and work ahead of us.” He added the terms, if certified by the Judge, become effective July 2025.

Chair Melanson thanked Director Barnhart and recognized Trustee McCoy.

Trustee McCoy lauded Director Barnhart and his team for the incredible job done during the state track meet in which her son participated in. “It was unbelievable, flawless. Everything was perfect. I cannot publicly thank you enough and your staff for such a good job. The majority of these kids will never run track for you, but they might go to school here, and it is an incredible recruitment tool when it is so professionally done.”

Chair Melanson thanked Trustee McCoy and introduced Executive Associate Athletics Director Melissa Gleason to review the Athletics Department Interim Financial Report for March 31, 2024, and the Athletics Department Budget for FY 2024-25.

## VI. Business Items

### Athletics Department Interim Financial Report for March 31, 2024

Executive Associate Athletics Director Gleason began by discussing the quarterly statement ending March 31, 2024, 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 the same percent of budget as the previous year and added that they showed a slight profit last year and that is how they are trending with a few weeks left in the budget year.

Chair Melanson asked for any questions and called for a motion to approve the interim financial report for March 31, 2024. Trustee Berry moved approval and Trustee Shoop seconded the motion. The motion carried without dissent.

### Athletics Department Budget for the period of July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Director Gleason continued by presenting the Athletics Department Budget for FY 2024-25. She detailed three nonnegotiable high-level categories, including salaries and benefits, scholarships and academic awards, and other obligations.

Chair Melanson thanked Ms. Gleason and recognized Trustee Shoop, who asked if they could expand on some of the reimbursements like scholarships. Director Barnhart explained that the department tries to be self-sustaining, and they pay full fare for all their scholarships, whether it is out-of-state or in-state. Because UK recruits nationally and internationally, that trends at 70% out-of-state and 30% in-state.

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to approve the Athletics Department Budget for the period of July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Trustee Case moved approval, and Trustee Webb seconded the motion. It carried without dissent.

With no further discussion, Chair Melanson thanked Director Gleason for her report.

## VII. Other Business and Adjournment

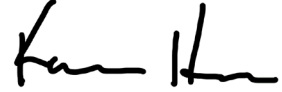
Chair Melanson introduced FCR 6, the request that the Committee recommend to the Finance Committee the acceptance of a \$9 million budget revision to the Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget. The increase in the Gifts and Other Grants and Contracts – Intercollegiate Athletics budget will fund two capital projects approved by the Board of Trustees on February 23, 2024, the Improve Kroger Field Stadium (Ribbon Board and Lighting Upgrades) capital project and the Improve Athletics Facilities 4 (Track and Field Complex – Resurface Outdoor Track) capital project.

Chair Melanson asked for a motion to approve FCR 6. Trustee Shoop moved approval and Trustee Case seconded the motion. The motion carried without dissent.

Chair Melanson reminded the Committee that the full Athletics Report had been loaded to Directors Desk and introduced a video produced by the Athletics Department highlighting the 2023-24 season.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Hardwick', written in a cursive style.

Katie Hardwick  
University Athletics Committee Secretary