

To: Faculty Senate
From: Council on Intercollegiate Athletics
Date: August 16, 2021
Re: Annual report: Summary of 2020-2021 Activity

The Council on Intercollegiate Athletics met twice during the 2020-2021 academic year. Our first Zoom meeting focused on introducing new council members and the election of a council chair. We were informed that all Fall 2020 sports were cancelled due to COVID-19, but that they were being re-scheduled for Spring 2021. Our second Zoom meeting consisted of reviewing the number of missed classes for Spring 2021 sports. Justification letters were read for the sports exceeding the 5/4 standard. Each sport's schedule was unanimously approved by the council.

The members and/or attendees of the 2019-2020 Council meetings were: Davison Bideshi, Sociology and Anthropology (A&S), Tom Cody, Educational Studies (ex-officio NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative), Stephen Gray, Finance (B&T) (**Chair**), Mei Wen, Health Sciences and Social Work (COEHS), Danielle Surprenant, Director of Athletics (ex-officio), Alaina Kline, Student-Athlete (Athletics), Ashley Minyard, Student-Athlete (SGA)

The primary objective for this council is to review and make recommendations relative to the various schedules submitted by the intercollegiate athletic teams in accordance with university policy.

The two key policies are:

1. The maximum number of classes missed per semester: A student athlete may miss a maximum of five Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and a maximum of four Tuesdays and Thursdays.
2. Athletic contests should not be scheduled during final examination week. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by CAGAS.

The council reviewed and approved the following athletic schedules:

- Men's and Women's Golf
- Softball
- Women's Tennis
- Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field
- Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field
- Men's and Women's Basketball
- Volleyball
- Football
- Men's and Women's Soccer
- Baseball

The council addressed ongoing concerns from Faculty Senate that some sports do not meet the guidelines for the policies listed above. Council members were reminded that the guidelines may not be met due to conference required games/meets/matches, and that the expansive

nature of the conference requires travel times in which one or more student-athletes may miss class. Additionally, the council addressed concerns and reaffirmed that student athletes are consistently provided access to the internet while on road trips. The council approved exceptions to the 5/4 rule after reviewing requested letters of support from the head coach of each sport exceeding the rule.

This was a rewarding but unsettling year for our student-athletes. There were a lot of unknowns and changes to their academic, athletic, and social routines. Even through all the uncertainties, the student-athletes continued to excel in the classroom.

The Fall 2020 Academic Report Card for WIU Student-Athletes is:

- Overall semester GPA for student-athletes: 3.19 (University GPA: 3.14)
- 54 student athletes (16%) had a 4.00 GPA.
- 214 student-athletes (64%) had a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

The Spring 2021 Academic Report Card for WIU Student-Athletes is:

- Overall semester GPA for student-athletes: 3.07 (University GPA: 3.22)
- 40 student-athletes (12%) had a 4.00 GPA
- 200 student-athletes (62%) had a GPA of 3.0 or higher

Some of this success can be attributed to the ability of student-athletes to adapt in the face of adversity. The Athletic Department credits a significant portion of these achievements to the WIU faculty for working with students throughout the pandemic. Faculty continued to support students by working with them individually and providing flexibility and guidance during the pandemic. The Athletic Department thanks you for all your effort in ensuring the success of the students at WIU.