

To: Faculty Senate
From: Council on Intercollegiate Athletics
Date: August 1, 2020
Re: Annual report: Summary of 2019-2020 Activity

The Council on Intercollegiate Athletics met once during the 2019-2020 academic year. Our second meeting consisted of various emails due to scheduling conflicts. We were able to review and vote on schedules via email.

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**), Emily Hart, Music (FA&C), Tim Piper, Kinesiology (E&HS), Danielle Surprenant, Director of Athletics (ex-officio), Cassidy Jurkaites, Student-Athlete (Athletics), James Claar, 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 Cross Country
- 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
- Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving
- Baseball

The council addressed concerns from Faculty Senate regarding some sports that did not meet the guidelines for the policies listed above. The guidelines were not met due to conference required games/meets/matches. The expansive nature of the conference requires travel times in which one or more student-athletes may miss class. Additionally, the council addressed concerns regarding students missing final examinations during the spring semester due to conference tournaments. 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.

During our report to Faculty Senate on February 4, 2020, we emphasized the importance of in-seat class time in our report. The council and athletic department recognize that student-athletes miss valuable information from the professor's lecture, classroom discussions, and hands-on experience when missing class. Student-athletes are responsible for staying on track and up to date in the course and are strongly encouraged to work with professors and classmates to get the material missed. Our report included GPAs for each sport, as well as a summary of the number of missed classes for Fall 2019. We also provided the forecasted number of missed classes for Spring 2020 and noted if the sport exceeded the attendance guideline.

This was an outstanding year for our student-athletes. Student-athletes earned the highest term grade point average in the department's history. Across both semesters, the percentage of athletes earning a 3.0 or higher increased from the previous year.

The Fall 2019 Academic Report Card for WIU Student-Athletes is:

- Overall semester GPA for student-athletes: 3.18 (University GPA: 3.07)
- 39 student athletes (11%) had a 4.00 GPA.
- 233 student-athletes (66%) had a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

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

- Overall semester GPA for student-athletes: 3.37 (University GPA: 3.13)
- 50 student-athletes (16%) had a 4.00 GPA
- 261 student-athletes (82%) 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 during the sudden transition to remote learning.