

UAAAC: 2020 – 2021 Report

Submitted by Leigh N. Hersey, PhD, Council Chair

During the 2020 – 2021 academic year, the council focused on meeting the needs of student-athletes, particularly as they faced additional hardship during COVID. Because of COVID, the Council met exclusively on Zoom. Below, find the primary issues we addressed.

- Faculty Academic Representative Dr. Mary Adams served on the COVID task force and kept the Committee informed of how team members were handling safety protocols.
- The Student Success Center shared ways they were assisting student-athletes with course resources during COVID. This included adjusting study halls and reassigning computers to provide for students who needed access to online courses.
- Dr. Adams and Committee Chair Dr. Leigh Hersey attended the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) meeting in October 2020 to get feedback from the student-athletes about what would help them succeed.
- A sub-committee met to create a Needs Assessment Report that addressed the mental health and academic needs of student-athletes that had been heightened during COVID. Feedback from the student-athletes at the October 2020 SAAC meeting was included in the report. The report was submitted to the President in November 2020.
- The committee was made aware that the changes in schedules which were driven by COVID protocols were making it difficult for some students to meet class attendance expectations. The Council drew up a policy that was shared with VPAA Dr. Alberto Ruiz. Dr. Adams and Dr. Hersey met with Dr. Ruiz who agreed with the policy that student-athletes in good standing would not be dropped from class for missing class due to sports schedules. He distributed it to the faculty.
- The Council worked with the student-athletes to award the Faculty and Staff members of the year recognition. Robert Williamson won the Faculty award and Ashleigh Simmons won the Staff member award.