

# UAAAC: 2021 – 2022 Report

Submitted by Leigh N. Hersey, PhD, Council Chair

Members: Leigh Hersey (Chair), Mary Adams (FAR), Arturo Rodriguez (Secretary), Wendy Bailes, Erika Cheung, Anthony Malta, Barbara Michaelides (through March), Carmen Wright

The UAAAC started off the academic year by meeting the new Assistant Athletic Director of Compliance, Erika Cheung. We worked with her to increase student engagement and ensure their needs were met. Throughout the year, she kept the Council informed of any academic or off-the-field/court/diamond needs of our student-athletes. In the Spring, Ms. Cheung shared the Hawk Cup with the Council, a way to increase student-athlete engagement.

Dr. Mary Adams (FAR) met with the teams at the beginning of the year to ensure they knew the UAAAC was a resource for them if needed.

Throughout the year, Barbara Michaelides and Carmen Wright continued to share obstacles and successes for student-athlete registration, tutoring, and advising. The Council worked with them to suggest solutions when needed.

Feedback from student-athletes to Council members reflected their inability to participate in career-building resources offered by the University due to their practice schedules. These opportunities included events like the majors fair and career fair. Efforts are being put into place for 2022 – 2023 to find alternate times for student-athletes to participate.

Throughout the year, Council members visited practices to show their support and be there if needed. Additionally, Dr. Adams and Dr. Hersey attended the Senior Breakfast for student-athletes and the supplemental graduation.

The Council worked with the student-athletes to award the Faculty member of the year recognition. Meredith McKinnie, English Instructor won the Faculty Member of the Year Award and was submitted to the Sunbelt Conference to represent ULM in the conference award.

A discussion about transgender student-athletes was held. Since no guidance has been provided from the conference or the NCAA, the committee agreed that a comprehensive policy needs to be developed for the University. The committee will ask the DEI and Title IX offices as well as the Student Affairs department to determine if they are working on a campus-wide policy.

In conjunction with Mental Health Month, on May 3 the Council brought Jan Daniels from the Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana to campus to present "The Signs of Suicide" awareness program. Although the presentation was intended for student-athletes, mostly academic counselors and athletics administration attended. However, based on this presentation, Mrs. Daniels is scheduled to meet with teams in Fall 2022.