Michigan State University
Athletic Council Report
January 27, 2015
Michigan State University
Athletic Council Report

• Michigan State’s Academic Governance Bylaws call for an Athletic Council. University Council approves its composition and bylaws. (5.2.1)

• The Athletic Council shall function as the faculty voice in the intercollegiate athletic program.

• Composition: Eight faculty, three alumni/ae, three students, UCUE Rep.

• Ex officio: Athletic Director; Faculty Athletic Rep. (FAR); Ex. Dir. of the Alumni Association; V.P. for Finance and Operations (or designee)
The Athletic Council meets seven times during the academic year

All members are appointed by the President

Staggered member terms: two years, renewable for two

The FAR is appointed by the President – must be a member the regular faculty

The FAR serves at President’s discretion. Currently a five-year appointment
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• **Responsibilities of the Athletic Council:**
  
  o The deliberative body for academic policies relating to student-athletes & intercollegiate athletics
  
  o Advise the AD on policies, procedures, organization relating to intercollegiate athletics
Four Athletic Council subcommittees:

- Academic Compliance and Services
- Planning and Equity
- Communications and Operations
- Drug Education and Testing (NCAA mandated)

Each Athletic Council member serves on a subcommittee
• **Additional responsibilities:**
  - Represent Michigan State; avoid extra privileges beyond those of the Faculty
  - Any tickets received are for Athletic Council members and their use
  - Report to the University Council annually, including a record of trips and tickets
  - Members also attend non-revenue sports and report back to Athletic Council
The NCAA requires each member institution to have a Faculty Athletic Representative (Articles 4, 5, 6) – a liaison between institution/faculty and the NCAA.

The FAR is one of five individuals to relate to NCAA and to the Big Ten.
• Four Principal FAR Functions

  o Academic Integrity
  o Academics-Athletics Integration
  o Institutional Compliance and Control
  o Maintain Independence from Athletics
• The Faculty Athletic Representative at Michigan State
  o *Chairs the Athletic Council*
  o Meets with the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
  o *Serves on the Big Ten Joint Group body (Presidents/Chancellors, ADs, FARs)*
  o Represents Michigan State faculty interest in athletics to both the Big Ten and the NCAA
  o Participates in University discussions about intercollegiate athletics
Meets regularly with Athletics Director

Meets regularly on issues of athletics with:
  - General Counsel
  - Asc. AD for Compliance
  - Asc. AD for Student Services

Monitors Student-Athlete experience – attends practices and games/matches & team travel

Participates in Student-Athlete exit interviews

At Michigan State, the FAR duties are 20% of a professor’s annual load
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• Specific FAR duties include:
  
  o Appeals and Waivers by coaches and athletes
  o Violations notification to NCAA and enforcement
  o Assist in preparing self-study report
  o Play leading role in academic integrity, governance compliance, equity, student-athlete welfare
More specific duties:

- Proctor the NCAA Coaches Certification exam (for 130+ coaches and staffs at Michigan State)
- *Monitor Student-Athlete academic performance*
- Be senior faculty advisor to CEO
- Sign off on student-athlete eligibility
- *Write a column for every football game program*
The Student-Athlete Experience – Some Highlights

- Only amateurs can be student-athletes
- Must be enrolled full time; in good academic standing; maintain progress toward degree (APR)
- Not all 800 student-athletes are on scholarship. Some are partial or no scholarship
- Student-athletes on roster must sign a drug-testing consent form
- Student-athletes are held to same academic integrity rules that apply to all students
Practice and Playing: General Rule:

- In-season: NCAA limit is 20 hours/week of playing & practice, 4 hours/day with 1 day off a week. Out-of season: 4 hours/day; 8 hours/week and 2 days off.

- First Day of Practice is determined by first regularly-scheduled contest
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• Student Athletes and Academics
  o Michigan State student-athletes missed class days: 7/semester. Additional missed days must be approved by the FAR
  o Student-athletes are actively engaged in community service: food bank drives, reading programs, and hospital visits.
Student Athlete Support Services

**Academic Services**

- Academic Coordinators (8)
- Learning Specialist (1)
- Tutorial Program (85)
- Learning Assistants (15)
- Subject Tutoring
- Assessments
- Interest Inventories
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Student Athlete Support Services

Student Athlete Development

- Personal and Career Development
- Leadership and Education
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Community Service