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: 9 faculty, 3 alumni/ae, 2 students, 1 student-athlete, 1 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
Responsibilities of the Athletic Council:

• The deliberative body for academic policies relating to student-athletes & intercollegiate athletics

• Advise the Athletic Director on policies, procedures, and organization relating to intercollegiate athletics
Four Athletic Council subcommittees:

1. Academic Compliance and Services
2. Planning and Equity
3. Communications and Operations
4. Drug Education and Testing (NCAA mandated)

- Each Athletic Council member serves on a subcommittee
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Additional Council 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
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• The NCAA requires each member institution to have a Faculty Athletic Representative – a liaison between institution/faculty and the NCAA.

• The FAR is one of five individuals at Michigan State to interact with the NCAA and the Big Ten.
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Four Principal FAR Functions

1. Academic Integrity
2. Academics-Athletics Integration
3. Institutional Compliance and Control
4. Maintain Independence from Athletics
The Faculty Athletic Representative at Michigan State

• Chairs the Athletic Council
• Meets with the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
• Serves on the Big Ten Joint Group body (Presidents/Chancellors, ADs, FARs)
• Represents Michigan State faculty interest in athletics to both the Big Ten and the NCAA
• 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

At Michigan State, the FAR duties are 20% of a professor’s annual load
Specific FAR duties include:

• Appeals and Waivers by coaches and athletes
• Violations notification to NCAA and enforcement
• Assist in preparing self-study report
• Play leading role in academic integrity, governance compliance, equity, student-athlete welfare
• Nominate student-athletes for Big Ten and NCAA scholarships
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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:

• 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
Student Athletes and Academics

- Michigan State student-athletes missed class days: 7/semester. Additional missed days must be approved by the FAR

- Student-athletes are actively engaged in community service: food bank drives, reading programs, and hospital visits.
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• Academic Coordinators
• Learning Specialist
• Tutorial Program
• Learning Assistants
• Subject Tutoring
• Assessments
• Interest Inventories
Fall 2016 Academic Highlights:

- Student-Athlete Cumulative GPA: 3.1078 (Highest all-time)
- 442 Student-Athletes have a 3.0 cumulative GPA
- 445 Student-Athletes achieved a 3.0 or higher semester GPA
- 18 Sports maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA
- 54 Student Athletes had 4.0 semester GPA
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SASS Academic Gala Highlights

• The women's golf team won the Athletic Director's Award (highest team GPA) for the sixth year in a row

• Alexis Wiersma and Garret Zuk received the President's Award

• Track & field sophomore Taylor Mullins was the recipient of the Multicultural Award
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SASS Academic Gala Highlights

• The men's soccer team won the Athletic Director's Award for the second consecutive year

• Jasper Koenen of the men's tennis team was the winner of the Gwendolyn Norrell Community Service & Leadership Award