



To: Faculty Senate

Re: Annual report on the activities of the Faculty Advisory Committee on Athletics and Physical Education

Date: June 30, 2020

From: Frank S. Rossi, Ph.D. Chair
Associate Professor of Horticulture
School of Integrative Plant Science

Please accept this summary report on the activities and actions of the Faculty Advisory Committee on Athletics and Physical Education (FACAPE) during the 2019-2020 academic year. The Faculty Advisory Committee on Athletics and Physical Education (FACAPE) is concerned with how the programs of the Department of Athletics and Physical Education can best complement and support the overall educational objectives of the University. Issues include academics, admissions, and the student athlete, working with the NCAA, the IVY league, and the ECAC, and the PE requirement.

Summary of meetings and attendees

Typically, two meetings are held per calendar year, one per academic semester. The following is a Summary Report of activities discussed and addressed in Spring '20.

Members of FACAPE met for a winter meeting on January 17, 2020.

Attendees included:

Faculty - Frank Rossi, Andrea Simitch, Dexter Kozen, Brad Anton, John Sipple, Brad Bell
A&PE – Andy Noel (Athletic Director), Jen Gudaz (Director of PE and Recreational Services), Amy Foster (Sr. Assoc. AD for Compliance & Student Services), Carmen Rogers (Asst. AD for Student Services)

Topics of discussion and review

Intercollegiate Athletics

- General review of grade information demonstrates that athletes remain responsible and successful students that positively contribute to our community in a variety of ways. Data are reported by sport, grade, college, etc. and allow for thorough discussion of trends and issues that require demonstrate success or could require intervention.
 - Renewed focus on the Team Faculty Advisor program could help better support student-athletes and particularly first year students. This project was enhanced in 2013-14 with a revised team faculty Advisor Handbook. Renewed emphasis on revitalizing these relationships was discussed.

FACAPE members offered to attend gatherings with Coaches and Players and Advisors that take place during semester.

- Significant conversation occurred and continues with regard to academic accommodations provided to student-athletes because of missed class due to participation in athletics. But that conversation is maturing Campus-wide as so many other accommodations are being developed to maintain educational objectives, such as religious, SDS, etc. The AD policy and system was regarded as a model of an effective and cooperative approach to this complicated issue.
- Written policies for missed class time have been extensively reviewed, revised and improved over the last several years to make understanding the policy easier for all involved. developed and approved by FACAPE. Those policies will continue to be reviewed and adjusted on a regular basis to support an appropriate balance of academics and athletics and encourage student-athlete academic success. These policies are applied in my review and approval of all team travel schedules in advance of each academic semester.
- Close attention is being paid to changes in NCAA rules and NCAA focus topics as they may impact or apply to our institution and our student-athletes. Notably:
 - widely publicized admissions recruiting scandals
 - importance of mental health conversation in support of student-athletes
 - expected changes in NCAA amateurism rules
 - Image and Likeness and legal gambling

Physical Education

- There are roughly 300 ways that Cornell students can earn physical education credit on the Hill—home to a large, vibrant, wildly varied program. Today's undergrads have to take two PE courses to graduate (though playing on a varsity or JV team qualifies), making Cornell one of three Ivies, along with Dartmouth and Columbia, that have mandatory physical education.
- Physical education participation remains the strongest among all the Ivies regarding subscription level, with several hundred students take beyond the two credits of PE required for graduation. This serves as a great measure of a successful program.
- In 2019–20, roughly:
 - *11,700 students were enrolled in PE*
 - *11,000 had fitness center memberships*
 - *3,800 did intramural sports*
 - *5,000 participated through COE*
 - *1400 took PE credit post-requirement*
- University policies regarding PE requirements for graduation as they apply to transfer students are being reviewed, with specific attention paid to the Swim Test. Swim test petitions remain an important function for a sub-Committee of FACAPE.

Response to COVID-19

FACAPE remains actively engaged in understanding the status of our athletics and physical education programs in the context of the University's mission. Given recent increased concern with the mental health of our overall student population, the positive impact of participation in intercollegiate athletics and physical and outdoor education classes and programs on the wellbeing of students is recognized.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are still unknown as we work to navigate and understand how our University will be operating this upcoming academic year. From an athletics perspective, teams were unable to complete their spring and winter seasons. How and when and to what extent athletics can resume is currently unknown.

Physical education classes transitioned quickly to an on-line format and much of its' programming will likely need to continue in that regard with the start of the fall semester. An early fall meeting of FACAPE could be beneficial in review of athletics and physical education during this unique and challenging time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank S. Rossi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frank S. Rossi, Ph. D - FACAPE Chair

Appendix:

Future Meetings and Membership

Membership for the 20.21 academic year is expected as follows:

Faculty Advisory Committee on Athletics and Physical Education (FACAPE) 3-year term

	Term	Dept.	College
Gary Evans	2023	DEA	CHE
Katie Keranen (sabbatical spring '20)	2021	Earth Atmos. Sciences	COE/CALS
+Frank Rossi, Chair	2021	Horticulture	CALS
Rosemary Avery	2021	PAM	CHE
Brad Anton	2021	Chem. Biomolecular Eng.	COE
Dexter Kozen	2021	Computer Science	COE
+Andrea Simitch	2022	Arch	AAP
+Brad Bell	2022	Human Resources Studies	ILR
Marvin Pritts	2022	Horticulture	CALS

Dean of the Faculty, ex officio (does not attend meetings)

Associate Dean and Secretary of the Faculty, ex officio (does not attend meetings)

Andy Noel, Director of Athletics, ex officio attends meetings

Amy Foster, Athletic Specialist attends meetings

John Sipple, Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR), ex officio, attends meetings

Jen Gudaz, PE Representation, ex officio, attends meetings

TBD, University Ivy League Eligibility Officer, ex officio (does not attend meetings)

Student positions TBD