

To: Faculty Senate

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

Date: August, 2022

From: Frank S. Rossi, Ph.D., Chair
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The Faculty Advisory Committee on Athletics and Physical Education (FACAPE) remains engaged with the Department of Athletics and Physical Education (A&PE) as a means of continuous review and support of the department's overall alignment with the University's educational objectives.

As was true for the University as a whole, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly and profoundly impacted athletics and physical education operations during the 2020/2021 academic year. With the exception of minimal competition occurring toward the end of the spring semester, no intercollegiate competition was allowed, and practice opportunities were extremely restricted by distancing, masking, and group size requirements. Physical education classes were similarly restricted and further hampered by space and instructor limitations. Like all staff and faculty, efforts of FACAPE members and athletics and physical education staff were focused on providing a safe, supportive, effective, and engaging learning environment in ways unlike ever before. It is important to understand this unprecedented context in review of this report.

Summary of meetings and attendees

We returned to normal meeting schedule in 2021-22 academic year, holding one meeting per semester. Meetings were attended by faculty members of the committee as well as key staff from the Athletic Department. Agenda items in 2021-22 focused on transitions from a pandemic-altered schedule and spacing to more normal participation and competition.

Several significant issues were under discussion in 2021-22:

1. 5th year students and One-time Grad Waiver **5th years**

- More 5th years than usual this year and expected for next several years. For a variety of reasons, students chose to take all or part of the academic year off and that could result in extended time at the institution in future years.
- 41 5th years this academic year
- **One-time grad waiver**
- With a few legislated exceptions, students normally are not allowed to participate in varsity athletics as graduate students.
- Ivy Presidents granted a one-time waiver that allowed students who graduated in SP21 to be eligible at their same institution as grad students for the 21/22 academic year.

- In addition to 41 5th years, we have 14 students taking advantage of the one-time grad waiver opportunity this year
- Advocacy to allow grad participation in the future continues (Ivy League is the only conference that doesn't allow it in some form)

2. Academic Perf/Mental Health Awareness

- Academics – saw terrific performance in SP20 given increased flexibility with S/U; more reflective of usual performance in 20/21
- Hot spots/stress/strain in the system – staff morale given impact from 20/21 year – mental health continues to be a concern for both students and staff as effects of the pandemic remain with an overlay of stressors from return and transition back; having the opportunity to play their sport is a bright spot; lack of resources (money and staff) continue to stress the system
- Student-Athlete Mental Health Committee (combo of athletics staff, students, and Cornell Health) to reconvene and resume efforts
- Students are battling two worlds – “I had a counselor tell me to quit my team”; Missing support of their identity
- There isn't trust that they will be validated
- Coaches are front line but they are not trained; Difficulty with student-athletes communicating with coaches for fear of how they will be perceived by their coach. Stigma.

University concluded a mental health review just prior to the pandemic. Look past the clinical piece (look beyond just hiring more therapists), looking to address other strains on students at Cornell generally. <https://mentalhealthreview.cornell.edu/>

- Athletics working with CAPS/Cornell Health to work toward comprehensive/cooperative approach
- Active conversation continues; subset of FACAPE to meet with CornellHealth reps

3. Academic support/DEI Position

- In February 2020, just prior to the onset of the pandemic, the Asst AD for Student Services position was vacated.
- The position has been restructured to an Assoc AD level and includes diversity and inclusion components. Assoc AD for Student-Athlete Support, Development, and Inclusion – hopefully will provide breadth of services in a new way based on needs of current student-athletes.
- Devan Carrington was hired in Summer 2021 as The Andrew '78 and Margaret Paul Associate Athletics Director for Student-Athlete Support, Development and Inclusion. Carrington spent nearly a decade serving students in areas of residential life, including the past six at Cornell. In his new role, Carrington is instrumental in supporting student-athlete growth in balancing their athletic and academic pursuits.

4. PHYS Ed Update - (COE, fitness centers, etc.)

Last year (20/21 year) during pandemic:

- Drop in membership, could only accommodate so many
- ½ participation in PE than normal, but could only offer ½ of the classes
- Having the opportunity to provide something for students was so important

This year (21/22):

Participation:

- 500-600 classes/semester; new offering of African dance next semester
- PE numbers were completely full; added more classes, but PE is growing very quickly
- Large portion of people taking PE that don't need it – gives them a built-in activity time with a community; demonstrates importance of having time to devote to physical activity/help with stress

Fitness centers:

- Normal operations this year with the exception of masking indoors – for PE, fitness centers, and intramurals
- New Toni Morrison Hall fitness center space – Morrison space is larger than the two spaces in Teagle put together. lots of strength use + 20 treadmills – no wait time for usage – more of what they're looking for – largest facility by 1500 sq. ft; great that it's part of the residence
- Cardio – many students still choosing activity outside, but weight and other equipment getting significant use.

5. Retirement of Andy Noel, the Meakem*Smith Director of Athletics and Physical Education in early March.

- Noel will serve in the position through the end of the 2021-22 academic year and into the 2022-23 academic year until a successor is named. A national search will commence in late summer. Serving in his 23rd season as athletics director and his 42nd year at Cornell overall, Noel is the longest tenured Ivy League athletics director, the second-longest in Cornell history behind the legendary Bob Kane '34. During his tenure, Noel has led a department that has won 106 Ivy League team titles with 37 individual and team national championships, nearly 2,300 All-Ivy athletes, including more than 850 first-teamers, and 400 All-Americans during his tenure.

6. FACILITY UPDATE

- Pools (disrepair and limited life as noted in the Resolution previously discussed)
- Relocation of Hoy Baseball field because of CIS – in schematic design right now – out to Game Farm Road

- RTJ Golf Course – 1.8 million of deferred maintenance – bunkers, drainage; 2nd phase (Gil Hans) to bring iconic facility to full usage. 25% from University – have to raise everything else
- Indoor Facility - \$18m structure originally (pre-pandemic), number is now considerably higher - \$25 to at least \$30 million; location on alumni field (will also result in relocation of field hockey field – will be parallel to Weill) – design phase, timeframe estimate of 3 years
- New scoreboard in Newman Arena
- W. Lacrosse moving locker room in Schoellkopf
- M. Ice Hockey – add to M./W. Ice Hockey amenities to locker room – cold plunge, whirlpool, sauna – important for recovery
- Sprint Football relocated to new facility behind crescent
- Refurbishing M. & W. Soccer
- Longer term – Ellis Hollow/Game Farm – expected to have more facilities on it? Yes, if academic mission pushes – reroute power lines.

7. SENATE RESOLUTION FOR NATATORIUM (reference Resolution and Minutes attached to Agenda for additional detail)

Sun Article – March 18, 2022 – <https://cornellsun.com/tag/natorium/>

- Pools serve a large and diverse campus population – faculty, staff and students via varsity athletics, PE, fitness classes, therapies, open swim, ROTC; pools provide access to physical activity in support of mental health
- Pools no longer meet the needs of the community
- Given life expectancy of pools, and expected timeline to build a new and appropriate facility, it is possible the campus could be without a pool available to serve the community = imminent concern and need for action
- Resolution has support from all assemblies (has not yet been posed to Employee Assembly, but to be presented in coming week)
- Realistic timeline if we started today is 10 years

8. Review of Swim Requirement

- The University Swim Requirement has been on pause since Spring 2020.
- There have been questions raised concerning the disproportionate effect this requirement is having on URM.
- Data confirms that majority of students enrolled in PE Swim Class are URM, especially womyn of color.
- FACAPE charged with presenting resolution to UFS in Fall for improvement/elimination of Swim Requirement.
- Several sub-committee meetings were held during Summer 2022 with guests from HBCU and Diversity in Aquatics group.

9. Intercollegiate Athletics

- The Big Red men's lacrosse team won a share of the Ivy League title and advanced all the way to the national finals, falling in a tight contest to undefeated and top-ranked Maryland. Cornell defeated Ohio State, Delaware and Rutgers on its way to the finals

behind first-year head coach Connor Buczek '15 behind the efforts of All-Americans Gavin Adler, John Piatelli and CJ Kirst.

- Junior Yianni Diakomihalis won his third NCAA wrestling title, becoming just the 50th athlete in history and second Cornellian, after four-time champion and Olympic bronze medalist Kyle Dake '13, to win three national titles. He led three All-America finishers as Cornell placed seventh as a team at the 2022 NCAA Wrestling Championship in Detroit. The Big Red has now finished in the top 10 nationally every year it has competed since 2006 - only perennial power Iowa can also make that claim.
- Junior Siva Subramaniam became the first Cornell squash player to claim a national title with a dramatic victory over Harvard in the finals of the College Squash Association National Collegiate Individual Championships in Philadelphia. She went a perfect 19-0 and was a three-time national semifinalist, a two-time national finalist and now a national champion.
- The Cornell gymnastics team hosted the USAG Collegiate National Championships from April 8-10 at Newman Arena, crowning eight All-Americans and a USAG national champion in the all-around in freshman Sydney Beers. She also earned individual All-America honors on vault and floor (first team), as well as beam (second team).
- The men's and women's hockey teams qualified for the ECAC Tournament, while the men's basketball team qualified for the four-team Ivy League Tournament for just the second time in school history, both under 2022 conference coach of the year Brian Earl.
- The women's track team crowned two All-Americans both indoors and outdoors, with Beatrice Juskeviciute earning USTFCCA Regional Field Athlete of the Year.
- Women's fencing ranked as high as No. 4 nationally and started off with a 32-0 record - the most consecutive wins to start a season by any Cornell team in school history. Five Big Red fencers earned a right to compete at the NCAA Championship – the most in program history and one shy of the most of any team in the country.
- Women's sailing ranked among the top five teams in the country throughout the season, ultimately earning invitations to compete at the Team Race, Coed and Women's Dinghy nationals. Brooke Shachoy was named MAISA Sailor of the Year and Lillian Myers won the Faye Bennett Singlehanded conference title.
- The women's lacrosse squad qualified for the Ivy League Tournament for the ninth time in 11 seasons under head coach Jenny Graap '86.
- Equestrian won the Ivy Show and placed first in the region, qualifying junior Ashley Ardila for nationals.