

Informational Report of the Athletics Advisory Board to the Faculty Senate
Submitted May 7, 2015
Yvette Harps-Logan, AAB Chair

Committee Members:

Yvette Harps-Logan, TMD, Chair & President's appointee
Denise Coppa, NUR, Faculty Senate appointee
Emily Clapham, KIN, Faculty Senate appointee
Arthur Mead, ECN, Faculty Senate appointee
Chris Fisher, National Sales Mgr., Toray Plastics, Alumni
Kathy Goulding, V.P., Coastway Community Bank, Alumni
Abbey Miklitsch, SAAC representative
Shannon McIssac, Undergraduate student, student Senate4 appointee
Thorr Bjorn. Director of Athletics, Ex-officio
Sue Bergen, Associate Athletics Director, Ex-officio
Jodi Hawkins, Director, Recreation Services, Ex-officio
Laura Beauvais, Vice Provost/ Faculty Affairs, Ex-officio

Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR): Yvette Harps-Logan

Responsibilities include:

- Ensuring institutional control of the athletics program (governance)
- Ensuring the academic integrity of the athletics program
- Ensuring a quality student-athlete experience

During the 2014-15 academic, the Athletics Advisory Board met 4 times. Its significant activities were:

- Review and approval of competition schedules in which the board gives feedback for minimizing missed class time for student-athletics, especially at critical times in a semester.
- Review of AAB mission statement and revisiting the AAB goals.
- Annual reports from the compliance Office and the Academic Advising Office.
- Development of an AAB Sakai site.

Following is a list of accomplishments of student-athletics on and off the field.

- 252 student-athletes earned Dean's list status for Spring and Fall 2014 semester.
- 145 student-athletes on Spring Dean's List with 17 having a 4.0 GPA.
- 164 student-athletes on Fall 2014 Dean's List with 10 having a 4.0 GPA.
- For Fall 2014 Rowing had 24, Swimming had 19, Football had 16.
- Football Successes (under Jim Fleming): Spring 2014, team GPA was 2.63, had 15 SA on Dean's List (Most on Record, Fall 2014, team GPA was 2.59 (highest Fall GPA since 2000)
- Two Academic Excellence Award winners.

Sam Leyh (W Soccer) Nutrition & Dietetics major

Emily Thomesen (Swimming & Diving (Pharmaceutical Science)

- Robert Rainville Leadership Award Finalist.
Abbey Miklitsch, (Women's Rowing) Atlantic 10 Conference Representative, Atlantic 10 Initiative Student Athlete Chair, Student Athletic Advisory Council (SAAC), President AAB Student Athlete, Homecoming Executive Chair: Student Alumni Association, double major in Psychology and Criminology, double minor in Underwater Archaeology and Philosophy.
- Volunteers, Habitat for Humanity 5K Road Race and Rhody Reads
- Study Hall Highlights - total student-athlete usage of studying hall for 2014-2015
- as of 4/10 is 37, 902.65 hours.
- Men's Basketball team held its first 5k run for cancer

Baseball

- Team defeated 11th-ranked North Carolina on Feb. 28
- Rhody players have collected a number of in-season honors as Tyler Wilson and Jordan Powell have combined for three Atlantic 10 Rookie of the Week awards.
- Wilson & Lou Distasio have been named A-10 Pitchers of the Week while Mike Corin has earned A-10 Player of the Week accolades.
- Team has already matched last season's win total (13) win a minimum of 20 games remaining.

Tennis

- Kathleen Uy captured the Flight B title at the NJIT Invitational.
- Taylor Holden earned Atlantic 10 & ECAC Player of the Week honors.
- Team posted a 3-1 record during their spring break trip to Puerto Rico.

Volleyball

- Franki Darnold was an Atlantic 10 First Team selection.
- Carolina Casey & Catie Steffen earned Academic All-Conference accolades.
- Marie Gillcrisp was named to the A-10 All-Rookie Team.
- Team finished 18-10 overall and entered the conference tournament as the #4 seed.

Men's Soccer

- Team won the Atlantic 10 regular season title and was ranked as high as 21st nationally.
- Went from 2-14-0 in 2013 to 13-5-3 in 2014, marking just the 11th time in the history of NCAA Division I that a team posted a turnaround of 10 games or better.
- Head Coach Gareth Elliot was the A-10 Coach of the year while five players earned All-Conference honors.
- Atlantic 10 Rookie of the Year Nils Leifhelm was recognized as the nation's best freshman goalkeeper.

Golf

- Team won the ECAC Division I Championship
- Joe Leavitt claimed the individual championship title at the Rhody Fall Invitational
- Four different players were honored at the URI Athletics Dean's List Reception

Men's Basketball

- Team turned in its best record in recent years, going 23-10 and advancing to the second round of the postseason NIT.
- EC Matthews & Hassan Martin were named to the All-Atlantic 10 team, the USBWA All-District I team and the NABC All-District 4 team.
- Jared Terrell was an A-10 All-Rookie Team selection.
- Gilvydas Biruta earned Academic All-Conference honors.

Men's Track & Field

- Team won fourth Atlantic 10 Indoor Track & Field Championship in last five years.
- Head Coach John Copeland earned his 19th overall championship and was named Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year, as well as US Track & Field Northeast Region Coach of the Year.
- Six student-athletes earned a total of eight Atlantic 10 Weekly Awards, in addition to two Academic All-Conference honors.

Women's Track & Field

- Finished in fifth place at the Atlantic 10 Indoor Track & Field Championship.
- Finished in fourth place at the New England Championship.
- Lauren Burke broke the school record in the 500m run at the David Hemery Valentine Invitational and the team of Burke, Dyshelle Pemberton, Keilan Nova, and Mariah Claudio broke the school record in the 4x400m relay at the ECAC Championship.

Women's Swimming & Diving

- Won eighth-straight Harold Anderson Invitational over Assumption, Bryant, Holy Cross, Maine and Providence.
- Chaya Zabudoff competed in the USA Swimming 2014 AT&T Winter National Championships for the second consecutive year.
- Emily Thomesen traveled to the Ugandan village of Lukodi as an intern for ChildVoice International.

Men's Cross Country

- Finished 32nd at NCAA Regionals
- James Bloom was team's top finisher at four straight meets, including a top-50 finish at the Atlantic 10 Championship.
- Three Rams earned top-20 finishes at the Bryant Invitational.

Women's Cross Country

- Alexa Pelletier finished second at the Atlantic 10 Championship, fourth at the New England Championship and finished 23rd at NCAA Regionals.
- Team finished eighth at Atlantic 10 Championship and sent six runners to NCAA Regionals.
- Pelletier was named to the Atlantic 10 Academic All-Conference team.

Women's Soccer

- Qualified for Atlantic 10 Tournament for first time since 2006.
- Nicole Brennan was named to the Atlantic 10 All-Conference Team after tallying 18 points on the year.
- Brennan and Alex Stanton were named to the College Sports Madness All-Conference team.

Football

- Had 12 players earn a spot on the CAA Football Academic All-Conference Team
- Andrew Bose and Charlie McKeeman earned All-America honors from TonySoftli.com
- Bose, Justin Favreau, Robbie Jackson, Tyler Catalina and Myles Holmes were named to the CAA Football All-Conference Team

Women's Basketball

- Had the most successful season in 19 years, winning 17 games.
- One of only eight teams in the country to improve its win total by at least 10 games from the 2013-14 season.
- Won a game at the Atlantic 10 Championship tournament for the first time in six seasons.
- Charise Wilson earned the A-10 Rookie of the Year award.

Rowing

- Placed fifth out of 21 teams at the Head of the Oklahoma Collegiate 8+ 4,000-meter race.

- As a team, competed in the Disney Half-Marathon during the team's annual training trip to Florida in January.
- Assistant Coach Jenna Hetzell was accepted into the NCAA Women's Coaches Academy being held this summer.

Softball

- Had eight players named to the Atlantic 10 Commissioner's Honor Roll.
- Caitlin Kennedy and Taylor Archer produced and edited Rhode Island Athletics' "It's On Us" video for the campaign against sexual violence.
- Team returned 2014 Atlantic 10 All-Rookie Team selection Marylynn Muldowney.