

Boulder Faculty Assembly  
Intercollegiate Athletics Committee  
2019-20 Report  
July 31, 2020

The IAC met as a full committee on 9/25/19, 10/30/19, 11/20/19, 1/31/20, 2/28/20, 4/3/20, & 4/24/20. We met in executive session (faculty-only; more on this below) on 10/16, 11/13, 12/11, 2/14, & 3/13. Each full committee meeting generally consists of updates (and frequent Q&A) from the Athletic Department (Rick George or Ceal Barry), Herbst Academic Center rep (Kris Livingston), Faculty Athletics Rep (Joe Jupille), Athletics Compliance (Jill Keegan or Abbey Shea), and COIA Rep (Scott Gwozdz). Other topics are discussed as time allows. Here are a few topics that figured centrally in the committee's work, followed by some brief notes from various meetings.

1. Faculty-Only IAC Meetings

Much of the monthly IAC meetings are devoted to checking in with (and providing feedback to) the various resource members (Department of Athletics, Herbst Academic Center, Compliance, Faculty Athletic Director, COIA Rep). Following successful implementation in AY19, the faculty voted to continue to hold monthly faculty-only IAC meetings in order to have more time to discuss other issues of faculty interest in the academic/athletic intersection. These meetings were held in executive session so faculty could discuss specific (sometimes sensitive) issues.

2. Faculty-Athletics Conversation Series

Based on the results from a BFA survey sent to all faculty at the end of AY19, we determined that a Town Hall/Conversation series would really help increase communication between the Athletic Department and the CU Faculty. We chose 4 of the most common topics mentioned in the survey and planned for 2 in Fall (Athletics Budget & Student-Athlete Academic Success) and 2 in Spring (Student Health & Title IX/Compliance). The Fall events successfully happened (15+ attendees at both events). Unfortunately, we had a late start for the Spring conversation series and both events were overcome by the campus response to COVID19.

3. CU Sports Gambling Policy

With sports betting declared legal in Colorado in November 2019 and the change due to occur as of May 1, 2020, we discussed how this would affect CU students, faculty, & staff. While Athletic Department staff and SAs were already prohibited from gambling on CU sports, our biggest concern was that student-athletes could be put compromising positions. (E.g. a faculty member threatens a SA's grade pending a specific game outcome or any campus representative betting on a game based on inside information simply from seeing a student's physical condition on campus.) After much discussion, we decided to recommend that Campus institute a Sports Gambling Policy prohibiting faculty, staff, and students from wagering on ANY University of Colorado Boulder athletic event. Finalization of this policy was interrupted by COVID19 but will be picked up in AY21.

4. Name, Image, & Likeness (NIL) policy

This was a quickly changing topic during AY20. As the topic (SAs being allowed to make money off their name, image, and likeness) gained steam in the national media, we discussed whether the BFA (and/or CU as a whole) should publicize a stance on the topic. After the NCAA announced a recommendation on impending changes, we discussed how this would affect CU and our SAs and how CU could support our SAs if they wanted to move forward and monetize their NIL.

5. COVID19 Response

As one might imagine, the topics of our last two meetings of the year were dominated by discussions regarding the impact of the COVID campus response on student-athletes and the Athletic Department as a whole. Discussions include how to best support the academics of our SAs during at-home learning, impacts of the P+/P/F grade policy, nutrition, scholarship and recruitment/commitment impacts, eligibility impacts, and overall budget impacts.

Other major discussion topics follow.

9/25/19

- Results of AY19 BFA Survey and how to use these results to create the Faculty-Athletics Conversation Series

10/30/19

- The recent NCAA statement on NIL changes and how it affects CU.

11/20/19

- SA academic major distribution (no concerns).
- The impact of travel schedules on SA's health and academics.

1/31/20

- Missed class-time letters and policies on travel.
- What campus topics would be considered in the BFA-IAC purview?
- Should there be a Campus Sports Wagering Policy?

2/28/20

- Does CU have a Predator Pipeline problem?
- Updates to the NCAA Transfer exception policy

4/03/20 & 4/24/20

- As mentioned in the summary above, both meetings in April were consumed by discussions related to the campus & NCAA responses to the COVID19 pandemic.