

[Boulder Faculty Assembly](#)

Intercollegiate Athletics
Committee 2023-2024 Report
May 23, 2024

Committee Charge: This committee monitors all aspects of the Intercollegiate Athletics Department as they are related to the academic mission of the Boulder Campus and make recommendations for changes to programs and policies. The committee has representatives from COIA, the campus Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR), and representatives from the Athletics department including student athletes.

Faculty Members: Don Oest (Chair), David Heckman, Leslie Reynolds, Kristin Moore, Wendy Glenn, Nick Villanueva, Hillary Potter, Ted Shears.

Resource members: Joe Jupille (Faculty Athletics Rep), Scott Gwozdz (COIA Rep), Rick George (Athletic Director), Jill Keegan (Senior Associate Athletic Director for Compliance and Senior Women's Administrator), Kris Livingston (Executive Senior Associate AD/Student Success), Samantha Lipka (Fall Student-Athlete Rep), Chase Seymour (Fall Student-Athlete Rep), Camden Dempsey (Spring Student-Athlete Rep), Gabe Landers (Spring Student-Athlete Rep), Seth Hornstein (IAC – Faculty Resource and past BFA-IAC chair, Teresa Foley (IAC – Faculty Resource and past BFA-IAC Faculty Member), Nicole Stob (BFA – Faculty Resource)

Early on at the direction of the BFA-IAC committee chair for AY 2023-2024, the BFA-IAC created some informal goals for the committee, which were the following:

1. Overarching goal/priority of this committee should be to maximize the graduation rate of CU student-athletes.
2. Attract and retain the best and brightest student athletes to attend the University of Colorado Boulder.
3. Improve the overall climate and dynamics between CU Faculty and CU Athletics.
4. Identify, develop and implement policies and programs to improve the mental health and overall well-being of CU student-athletes.

The BFA-IAC met monthly (in-person with a Zoom option) as a full committee on 09/05/2023, 10/03/2023, 11/07/2023, 12/05/2023, 02/06/2024, 03/05/2024, & 04/02/2024. At our normally scheduled monthly meetings, the BFA-IAC received regular updates from CU Athletics, Herbst Academic Center, and the Faculty Athletics Representative. Occasionally, we would also receive an update from our Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) Representative. It was also extremely beneficial to have our 4 student-athletes (2 in the Fall 2023 and 2 in the Spring 2024, who were also representatives of CU Athletics Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), attend our monthly meetings as they provided very beneficial input and feedback.

For our BFA-IAC monthly meeting on 09/05/2023, we had invited special guest, Cory Hilliard, Senior Associate Athletic Director - Business Operations & Athletics Financial Officer, who provided a detailed overview of the FY2024 CU Athletics Budget which had a \$135,197,600 annual operating budget.

At our BFA-IAC monthly meeting on 10/03/2023, we had Dr. Theresa D. Hernández, CU Athletics Director of the Crawford Family WHOLE Student-Athlete™ Research and Programming, who provided the committee with a comprehensive presentation of the CU WHOLE Student-Athlete™ Program. Dr. Hernández provide the committee with updates on the CU Student-Athlete from a **Wellness, Health, Optimal, Life Experience** perspective, with emphasis on the areas of Physical, Psychological, Academic and Career.

During our BFA-IAC monthly meeting on 11/07/2023, we asked Kris Livingston, CU Athletics Executive Senior Associate AD/Student Success to provide an overview of the Spring 2023 CU team GPAs, which were very impressive and celebrate the support that Kris and the Herbst Academic Center provide our CU Student-Athletes. Here are just a few of the highlights of the Spring 2023 CU team GPAs:

- **All Student-Athletes Spring 2023 Semester GPA = 3.154**
-Highest term GPA in history!
-7th consecutive semester over 3.0
-13 of 15 teams posted semester GPAs above 3.0/11 of 15 teams posted semester GPAs above 3.1
-10 of 15 teams posted semester GPAs above 3.2/9 of 15 teams posted semester GPAs above 3.3 **Highest term GPA in history!**
- **All Student-Athletes Spring 2023 Cumulative GPA = 3.182**
-Highest cumulative GPA in history!
-13 of 15 teams have a cumulative GPA above 3.0/11 of 15 teams have a cumulative GPA above 3.1
-10 of 15 teams have a cumulative GPA above 3.2
- **Women's Ski Team had their best Spring GPA and the overall highest Spring 2023 GPA at 3.669**
- **Women's Basketball team also had their best Spring GPA at 3.356**
- **Men's Football team had their highest GPA ever at 2.932**

To improve the overall climate and dynamics between CU Faculty and CU Athletics, our Faculty Athletics Representative, Joe Jupille, with the support of the BFA, BFA Chair, BFA-IAC and CU Athletics, lead an effort to bring CU Faculty & Staff together with CU Athletics to have a series of open and frank campus discussions. The following three BFA Campus-Athletics Conversation Series events were conducted:

- BFA Campus-Athletes Conversation Series #1 "**RAPID: CU Athletics in a Changing Landscape**" Presented by CU Athletic Director Rick George on 10/31/2023
- BFA Campus-Athletes Conversation Series #2 "**Crawford Family WHOLE Student-Athlete™ Program**" Presented by Dr. Theresa D. Hernández was on 12/05/2023
- BFA Campus-Athletics Conversation Series #3 "**Student-Athlete Success at CU**" Presented by Kris Livingston, was on 02/14/2024

During the Spring 2024 semester, the BFA-IAC launched a pilot program entitled the "**Faculty Athletics Fellows Program**", whereby a CU faculty member is assigned to work

closely with one of the CU Athletics sports team. **Wendy Glenn**, Professor of Literacy Studies and Chair of the Secondary Humanities Teacher Licensure program and BFA-IAC faculty representative for the past two years was assigned to the CU Women's Volleyball. Based on the feedback received back from both Wendy and Coach Jesse Mahoney, the BFA-IAC will look to roll out this program to more CU Athletics sports teams in the future.

Also, during on regularly scheduled monthly meetings in Spring 2024, we generally reviewed the changes to the NCAA transfer portal policies and what they might mean for our student-athletes. We also continued to monitor student-athlete academic performance (as presented by Kris Livingston) and overall Athletics department updates (as presented by in each meeting by Jill Keegan). Each meeting also contained an update from CU's Faculty Athletic Representative (Joe Jupille) on issues related to his position on campus and as a member of the PAC12 FAR Group and the NCAA Committee on Academics. Lastly, Jill Keegan and Joe Jupille also updated us on the impact of CU moving from the PAC-12 conference to the BIG 12 conference starting in Fall 2024. It is believed that CU sports teams will be traveling less once joining the BIG XII conference because of the multiple schools in the surrounding states of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, however it was also noted that BYU does not play any games on Sunday, which could have an impact on men's and women's basketball schedules.

The BFA-IAC continued to work with the campus administration regarding the [BFA-IAC Resolution to Recommend a CU Boulder Policy Regarding Sports Wagering on CU Boulder NCAA Teams](#). Don Oest, Jill Keegan, and Seth Hornstein met with CU's COO, Pat O'Rourke to understand the issue with the proposed BFA-IAC's resolution regarding sports wagering on CU Boulder NCAA teams. Pat explained that the issue with the proposed BFA-IAC resolution was that when Colorado passed laws allowing for sports betting, it made the act of wagering on a sporting event a legal activity in the state of Colorado. While it is true that employers may have standards of conduct in the workplace that are higher than legal requirements, Colorado law does not allow employers to terminate any employee "due to that employee's engaging in any lawful activity off the premises of the employer during nonworking hours." So, Pat was concerned that the proposed BFA-IAC resolution wouldn't have any impact if we couldn't terminate the employee for violating the prohibition. So, it was decided at a subsequent meeting, that we would pivot from preventing faculty from wagering on CU Boulder NCAA teams, to focus on protecting CU student-athletes from harassment for their performance during games/events that impacted persons' sports betting.

In May 2024, Kris Livingston published an overview of the Spring 2024 CU team GPAs, which were again very impressive and celebrate the support that Kris and the Herbst Academic Center provide our CU Student-Athletes. Here are just a few of the highlights of the Spring 2024 CU team GPAs:

- **All Student-Athletes Semester GPA = 3.182**
 - Highest semester GPA in history!*
 - 9th consecutive semester over 3.0
 - 7 of past 9 semesters over 3.1
 - 13 of 15 teams posted semester GPAs above 3.0
 - 12 of 15 teams posted semester GPAs above 3.1
 - 11 of 15 teams posted semester GPAs above 3.2

- **All Student-Athletes Cumulative GPA = 3.244**
 - Highest cumulative GPA in history!*
 - 14 of 15 teams have a cumulative GPA above 3.0
 - 13 of 15 teams have a cumulative GPA above 3.1
 - 11 of 15 teams have a cumulative GPA above 3.2

Lastly, Don Oest, Joe Jupille and Nick Villanueva served on a Special Admissions Committee as representatives of the BFA-IAC in May 2023.