



**WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Special Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics
Monday, March 8, 2021
3:00 p.m.
MINUTES**

Live Stream: <http://wright.edu/bot-stream>

Present: D. Fecher, M. Grunder, T. Gunlock, W. Montgomery, A. Platt, B. Whiteside

Guests: S. Culley, S. Mickey-Boggs, G. Sample

1. Call to Order

Trustee Martin Grunder, chair, called the meeting to order on March 8, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed the board members present as well as the guests.

Trustee Grunder asked the secretary, Shari Mickey-Boggs, to call the roll. There was a quorum.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

Trustee Grunder read the conflict of interest statement.

It is of the utmost importance to ensure that all university decisions are free from any real or perceived conflicts of interest.

Therefore, please be mindful of all obligations with which you have been charged as a Trustee of Wright State University, and take the steps you deem appropriate to perform your duties fairly and impartially.

3. Proof of Notice of Meeting

Trustee Grunder stated that the meeting had been called by written notification; a quorum was present. Trustee Grunder read:

Chair's Statement

The Wright State University Board of Trustees is a public body subject to the Ohio Open Meetings Act. It operates on a fixed agenda available to those attending the meeting. Persons wishing to address the Board in its public session should submit a written request to the Board of Trustees' office 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to be placed on the agenda. However, all persons address the Board at the invitation of the Board and are subject to time limitations and other guidelines established to maintain the good order of the meeting.

4. Review Charge from Board Chair

Trustee Grunder reviewed the Charge given to the committee by Board Chair Gunlock:

1. Analyze intercollegiate athletics:
 - a. Current status and role at universities
 - b. Understanding the impacts of Covid-19
 - i. Financial
 - ii. Athletes' participation
 - iii. University overall
2. Review any NCAA changes due to Covid-19 and beyond
 - a. Future status in higher education
 - b. Operational parameters that may impact Wright State University
 - i. Are impact/s to be permanent
 - c. Looking at it from all angles
3. Be proactive and make recommendations
 - a. How it may affect intercollegiate sports at Wright State University
 - b. How to best position ourselves moving forward
 - c. Mindful of opportunities/benefits of enrollment and retention

5. Opening Comments from Special Committee Chair, Grunder

Trustee Grunder stated he knows that Covid-19 has been quite a challenge for everyone. Even his own small businesses have faced these challenges, but there have been opportunities to reinvent things. He believes we need to look at what we have in-place and find what we can build on – look for those opportunities.

Trustee Grunder asked the committee members to discuss goals and objectives; he opened the floor for discussion.

Trustee Fecher stated, personally, the committee is going to want to review, evaluate and recommend strategies for aligning the Wright State athletic program with the university's primary academic mission. Spend time gathering information on the role of intercollegiate athletics at universities within the United States. This committee should seek to understand how sports work at all levels. Look at the value propositions that athletics offers to their sponsoring university. The tangible (e.g. financial/student recruiting) and the intangible propositions (e.g. brand/reputation). Need to understand what Bob Grant, athletics director, and his team are doing and how they are doing it. Need to hear from the athletics team, faculty/staff, Raider fans in the community and most important of all – students. Make a list of what information we need to gather, how to gather it and report back to the board of trustees. Trustee Fecher also feels the scope of athletics needs to go beyond the NCAA to encompass club and intramural sports.

Trustee Whiteside concurred with Trustee Fecher's comments and believes we need to come from a point of understanding and the key is to take a step back and assess and make recommendations. She stated that the committee needs to have a better understanding of the current operations and then look at collegiate athletics – short-term and long-term. Hearing from stakeholders that have a diverse experience and background – be sure the committee is hearing from everyone involved.

Trustee Platt agreed with the committee members. He stated that we need to be sure we connect athletics to opportunities from a recruiting and retention tool. As we look over the next couple of years, how we can increase enrollment and see how Wright State can align those two objectives.

Trustee Grunder stated that when recruiting there are three areas that are looked at: academic, social and athletics.

6. Discuss Goals & Objectives

Take-aways from brainstorming:

- Comprehensive understanding of Wright State University
 - Bob Grant to present to the Board—soonest
 - Before looking at peers and their structures—in-depth understanding
- What information do we need?
 - List of questions
 - How information will be gathered
 - Method on reporting on it

Goals & Objectives (cont.)

- Complete review from a macro perspective
 - Intercollegiate athletics – broad context
 - Different levels that exist
 - Division I
 - Division II
 - Division III
 - Financial data across all divisions
 - All intercollegiate programs
 - What is the true cost for WSU's athletics program
 - WSU Athletics – understand what is currently being done
 - What can be built on?
 - What resources are being invested in athletics?
 - Value received (ROI)
- Demographic profile of our student athletes Information – what do we need to gather?
 - NCAA athletics information
 - Intramural sports
 - Club teams
- Aligning the WSU athletic program with academic mission
 - Athletics team to inform what they are doing
 - Review, evaluate and recommend
- Intercollegiate Athletics at universities (within the US)
 - Information on the role
 - How sports work – at all levels
- Value Propositions athletics offers
 - Tangible (financial/student recruiting)
 - Intangible (brand/reputation)
- Stakeholders input
 - Students – most important
 - Faculty/Staff
 - Community (fans)
 - Donors
 - How many scholarships are tied to athletics?
 - Who do we want to be?
 - Student experience
 - Student athletes experience

Trustee Grunder recommended that the committee prepare a list indicating what they want to know; what are the questions the committee wants answers to or know at the end of the athletic presentation.

7. Meeting schedule

Trustee Grunder asked the committee to reconvene in two weeks. May need two-hour meetings for the presentations.

Adjournment

Trustee Grunder asked for any further business for the committee; hearing none the meeting was adjourned by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Fran Keeley

Approved by the WSU BOT Special Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics on April 6, 2021.