

Report From David Dosser

11/16/12

East Carolina University

2011-2012 Academic Rankings of Squads in Conference USA*

Men's Sports

Baseball: (2.881) 6th out of 9
Memphis (3.225)
Basketball: (2.393) 10th out of 12
Rice (3.166)
Cross Country: (2.706) 8th out of 8
Memphis (3.736)
Football: (2.501) 8th out of 12
UCF (2.686)
Golf: (3.043) 8th out of 11
Memphis (3.402)
Soccer: N/A
Tennis: (3.009) 9th out of 9
Rice (3.496)
Track & Field: (2.803) 6th out of 8
Tulsa (3.41)

Women's Sports

Basketball: (3.381) 1st out of 12
ECU WON THE AWARD
Cross Country: (3.472) 6th out of 12
USM (3.820)
Golf: (3.587) 2nd out of 10
Memphis (3.711)
Soccer: (3.370) 6th out of 12
Marshall (3.479)
Softball: (3.139) 5th out of 9
Houston (3.50)
Swimming: (3.573) 1st out of 6
ECU WON THE AWARD
Tennis: (3.103) 10th out of 12
Memphis (3.614)
Track & Field: (3.277) 4th out of 12
Rice (3.382)
Volleyball: (3.34) 3rd out of 12
USM (3.595)

ECU, with an overall average GPA of (2.970), is 6th in the C-USA out of 12 institutions. Tulsa (3.121) won the Institutional Academic Excellence Award. C-USA Sport Academic Award winners for each spot are noted for comparison.

*Data taken from *Sport Academic Award and Institutional Academic Excellence Award Information 2011-2012* document compiled by C-USA and distributed to FARs.

Information compiled by Nita Boyce, and David Dosser.

David Dosser

PRESENTATION TO FACULTY SENATE

November 6, 2012

1. I have been a faculty member at ECU since 1988 and the Faculty Athletics Representative since July of 2003.
2. As the FAR, I represent this body and all faculty members at ECU.
3. I answer to the Chancellor and Provost.
4. I teach half-time in the family therapy program and serve as the FAR half-time. All my salary is paid by academic affairs with half of it going back to the CDFR department for my release time. In addition, my travel expenses are paid by the Chancellor's office.
5. I never accept gifts from the Athletic Department and they have quit asking me. I do get free tickets. I make a donation to the Pirate Club in addition to my regular donation in the amount of the free tickets that I receive.
6. I like my job. It gives me great variety.
7. As the FAR, I provide a bridge between the academic side of campus and the athletic side with a focus on three main areas: **welfare of student-athletes, academic integrity, and rules compliance.**
8. As the FAR, I am in an oversight and advisor role within the Department of Athletics, but I do not work for the Department of Athletics. I work for you.
9. I am a faculty member first, and foremost. I hope I am doing a good job representing this body and other faculty members. **Please let me know if I am not.**

10. I appreciated getting this body's endorsement for another 3-year term, which began on July 1, 2012. I asked for that because I need the support of the faculty senate.

11. Today, I want to talk to you about rules compliance and academic integrity and what we have in place to monitor what goes on with our athletic department.

12. If you have been reading the papers, even if you do not read the sports section, it might seem that everyone in intercollegiate athletics is CHEATING. And it is not just athletes; it is coaches, other athletic department officials, and even athletic directors who have cheated in one way or another. The most recent scandal is just up the road in Chapel Hill.

13. In some ways nationally, the tail may indeed be wagging the dog. Athletics have become too important and make too much money. I learned that in Division I, budgets range from over \$150 million to under \$1 million. How can that be a level playing field?

14. Our athletic budget is approximately \$30 million. College athletics are a business, but I believe universities should prioritize education. But the majority of our alumni are more interested in ECU football and not academics. I believe the faculty should be **most** concerned about academics.

15. I want you to know what is in place at ECU, to catch, or better yet, prevent these sorts of problems happening here.

16. We talk to student-athletes at the beginning of every year about what academic fraud is and what could constitute an academic integrity violation and what the consequences of such actions are likely to be. In fact, they hear this several different times from several different people.

17. Now, we have a monthly compliance meeting to discuss compliance issues with Dr. Ballard and Dr. Sheerer. In attendance at those meetings along with me are

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John Fletcher, Tim Wiseman, Nick Floyd, and Jamie Johnson, our new Associate AD for Compliance.

18. Jamie also holds monthly compliance meetings with all our coaches. Jamie has also instituted a compliance newsletter. Jamie is doing a great job making compliance count at ECU.
19. Here is what **you** can do. As I have said many times, I wish faculty members were more involved with athletics and efforts to more fully integrate athletics into the educational mission of ECU.
20. This is because student-athletes are admitted to the university as **students** not as athletes.
21. When student-athletes choose their majors they are admitted to your departments as **students** and not as athletes. So faculty members are responsible for them sooner or later.
22. The vast majority of student-athletes are doing well as students and will graduate without any possibility of playing professionally in their sport. So faculty members need to prepare them for the rest of their lives as best they can.
23. I also want you as senators to be certain that student-athletes are treated the same as other students – no better and no worse.
24. Sometimes faculty members get caught up in trying to help the athlete too much. That is never good. That is the complaint at UNC-CH right now.
25. Sometimes faculty members treat student-athletes unfairly, because they are athletes. That also is not good. Please be sure faculty members in your units are following the university excused absence policy.
26. **Compliance is every Pirate's Job**, and that includes faculty members.
27. It is also important that you make your expectations regarding academic integrity very clear to all your students. Please let someone know if you have reason to suspect that a student-athlete may have cheated. Please let someone know if you

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have reason to suspect that a tutor may have helped a student-athlete too much. If you have questions or concerns, please call me.

28. As I mentioned at the beginning of my remarks today, I am sad about many things that are happening in intercollegiate athletics. But I still believe that we are doing things here about as well as can be done. I say that after talking to FARs from around the country at the Division I A FAR meeting, which I go to every year. I also represent C-USA on the Academic Cabinet and that is populated by FARs.

29. Dr. Ballard started an Academic Success Committee with attention given to anything related to the academic success of our student-athletes including graduation rates, APR scores, grades, majors, class attendance, where they live, initial and continuing eligibility waivers, and special admits. This committee is made up of four faculty members (Stacey Altman, Cal Christian, Mike Felts, and me), four athletic administrators including Nick Floyd, and four academic administrators including Dr. Sheerer. Right now this committee is meeting every month.

30. Let me share with you some of the accomplishments of the Academic Success Committee, which has met approximately twenty-five times:

- Student-athlete attendance policy. We had a student-athlete attendance policy before, but it wasn't being enforced. We wanted a policy that could be enforced and everyone understands that when student-athletes are in class, they make better grades.
- We have carefully monitored the academic success of student-athletes
- We have developed a conduct policy with careful attention to arrest and convictions and have determined that this allows equitable treatment for the fourth string quarterback and the starting quarterback.
- We have very carefully monitored each team's APR scores.

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- We have revised the policy for special talent waiver-requests.
- We have very carefully monitored non-qualifier requests.
- We have carefully monitored what has been going on at UNC-Chapel Hill, in terms of their academic misconduct. Dr. Ballard has made clear those things should never happen here.
- We have improved the study hall for all student-athletes.
- We have dealt with the housing of student-athletes.
- We have carefully monitored the graduation success rate of ECU student-athletes.
- We have instituted academic integrity training for all student-athletes and they must pass a test that shows they understand what academic integrity is all about.
- We are revising the exit-survey that the NCAA requires us to deliver each spring and we want to implement a plan to review a survey of all returning student-athletes.

31.Coaches can and must recruit students who will graduate. We have to quit admitting athletes who do not want to be students. That leads to academic **enforcement** rather than academic **enrichment**.

32.Coaches are teachers, just as we all are. They are interested in preparing their students for the rest of their lives, just like we are as professors.

33.Participation in athletics should enrich, expand, and elaborate the student's educational and overall collegiate experience.

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34. Involvement in athletics should teach important values and skills that apply to all areas of life.
35. These values and skills include: teamwork, communication, sacrifice, hard work, managing success, coping with adversity, perseverance, confidence, courage, determination, humility, and time management. This is why employers like to hire student-athletes.
36. And finally, the vast majority of our student-athletes are doing all the right things athletically and academically. We struggle with very few. We were on NCAA probation because of 5 student-athletes out of more than 420.
37. Are there questions?