

## PRESENTATION TO FACULTY SENATE

October 1, 2013

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. I just received a shirt from the Athletics Department. So I had to donate to the Pirate Club the expense of that shirt.
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 within our athletic department.
12. Our athletic budget is approximately \$35 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.
13. I want you to know what is in place at ECU, to prevent these sorts of problems happening here.
14. We talk to student-athletes at the beginning of every year about what academic misconduct 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.
15. 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 John Fletcher, Tim Wiseman, Jeff Compher our new Athletic Director, and Jamie Johnson, our Associate AD for Compliance.
16. Jamie also holds monthly compliance meetings with all our coaches. Jamie has also instituted a compliance newsletter. Jamie is doing a good job making compliance count at ECU.

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17. 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.
18. This is because student-athletes are admitted to the university as students not as athletes.
19. 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.
20. The vast majority of student-athletes are doing well as students and will graduate without any possibility of playing professionally in their sport.
21. So faculty members need to prepare them for the rest of their lives as best they can.
22. I also want you as senators to be certain that student-athletes are treated the same as other students – no better and no worse.
23. Sometimes faculty members treat the same, sometimes they don't. When they treat them negatively that is a huge cost for the student.
24. I want all of you to follow the university excused absence policy and tell your faculty about that policy, especially your graduate students teaching.
25. In this policy, it explicitly states the anytime a student is representing this university a faculty member must allow them to make that work up. This policy was passed by this faculty senate and signed by the Chancellor.
26. 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.
27. Compliance is every Pirate's Job, and that includes faculty members.
28. 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 have reason to suspect that a tutor may have helped a student-athlete too much. If you have questions or concerns, please call me.
29. 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 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 went to last week. I also represent C-USA on the Academic Cabinet and that is populated by FARs.
30. 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 admit. This committee is made up of four faculty members including Ann Bullock, Cal Christian, Mike Felts, and me), three athletic administrators including Nick Floyd, and four academic administrators

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including Dr. Sheerer, Dr. Hardy, Dr. Fletcher, and Nita Boyce, who works for Dr. Fletcher. Right now this committee is meeting every month.

31. We are taking a hard look at Special Talent Waivers.

32. 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.

33. 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.

34. Coaches want the same thing at practice and meetings that professors do in their classes. Both coaches and professors want the students to behave and pay attention.

35. Please let me know if you are having problems with student-athletes misbehaving in class.

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

37. Involvement in athletics should teach important values and skills that apply to all areas of life.

38. 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.

39. 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 430.

40. Are there questions?

David Dossler, Faculty Athletics Representative

Report on University Athletic Committee's Academic Integrity Subcommittee