

**PAOC Meeting September 4, 2025**

**12:30-1:45PM**

**Location: Hospitality Suite**

In attendance: *Dan Niederjohn, Milton Overton, Sheb True, Ivan Pulinkala, Megan Stoltzfus, Patrick Vickers, Mathew Iwanski, Randy Kennedy, Nakia Deblanc, Selena Patterson, Anete Vasquez, Mathew Mitchelson, Keira Hight, Alissa George, Cale McDaniel (guest Coach), Carly Buchannan Haocks, Austin Brown (remote) Claire Rutte (minutes)*

**Dan Niederjohn, Chair and Faculty Athletics Representative**, opened the meeting at 12:34pm. The attendees made introductions. Milton greeted the room, welcoming the new members. Dan reminded everyone that PAOC is about academic integrity, following NCAA rules and most importantly about student athlete welfare. Minutes for April 3, 2025 PAOC meeting were approved.

For the Coach's Corner, Dan Niederjohn introduced Cale McDaniel, the Head Coach of KSU Track and Field.

**Cale McDaniel, Head Coach Track and Field**, spoke about his history first as an athlete and then as a head coach. Coach Cale said, "We have grown as a program." He encourages his team to shoot for the stars and not be afraid to mess up. "Think bigger" is their motto.

He thanked the room for their support and said with the help of university counterparts like SASS, "we have grown as a program." He also shared that there are now even more international athletes on his teams (for example, from India, New Zealand, and Kenya) and that last season three individuals qualified and was part of the biggest group qualifying ever in KSU tracks and fields history. Coach Cale said that staff and student athletes take pride in KSU and that his philosophy is about being passionate, saying he was a "pusher". When asked how the student athletes were acclimating to CUSA and especially the travel requirements, he said that he and his athletes have enjoyed the higher-level competition in their first year in CUSA. He said the team adjusted easily and was excited to go up against the best in the country. He emphasized that not one single athlete entered the portal mid-year. Milton commented that Track has the most championships of all the sports at KSU. Coach Cale thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak at the PAOC meeting. He

invited everyone to attend a track meet on the last weekend in March for the opportunity to meet and greet.

**Milton Overton, Director of Athletics**, opened his state of the department address by saying that it has been a very busy 12 months. Last week was the first Power competition with Wake Forest, sharing how the football team worked so hard, and he credited Coach Mack for his efforts.

Milton shared updates about the status of the Mickey Dunn stadium and discussed the history of “how we got here.” He mentioned the Wellstar Sports Performance (located behind Field 3) and said it is a new sports performance location and said the Wellstar building will eventually house football offices.

Milton spoke about the new hardware and software being used for sports to create and provide helpful data to improve performance and keep the athletes safe. “We will have better data available than Georgia Tech” he said. Milton was asked how we are going to compete with NIL and keep academics the “main thing?” Milton replied that SASS is now in the ALC, a large building and at the center of campus, as opposed to being in a small building like in the past. He said SASS was integrated into Academic Affairs in order to make sure all are on the same page. “We will continue to add resources to SASS and build up infrastructure,” he said. Milton also shared student athletes are being taught how to balance checkbooks and have been provided with financial advising, from basic to expert advisement.

**Meghan Stoltzfus, Director, Student-Athlete Development** provided her SAAC update by first introducing Keira High from SAAC. Megan informed all that the first meeting of the semester will be this Sunday in the Convocation Center, reminding everyone what SAAC is about and telling them about the upcoming CUSA SAAC conference. She shared that KSU SAAC was awarded by CUSA based on academics, financial literacy, and community service. “We beat Liberty!” Megan exclaimed. Additional updates were about the planned fall development initiatives saying that bringing in campus partners to speak with the student athletes would not conflict with their academic or athletics responsibilities. There are also sessions planned to train in active listening and in how to handle conversations. Megan said she is also working with international staff in Global Education to provide this training for them. She spoke about the Athleaders leadership development program, saying it was in its second year. Athleaders is assisted by Chris Darley, who worked with Chik fil A headquarters and did corporate training. He operates 2 CFA’s which is not the norm. Megan said that Chris has helped develop a conflict resolution program to understand personalities and has done DISK assessments to help athletes understand and navigate the behavior of others.

***Mathew Iwanski, Associate Athletic Director, Athletics Compliance*** reported out saying the recent House Settlement, approved in July, holistically changed what the NCAA is. He detailed that there were changes in roster limits, how rosters are created and maintained and how financial aid is applied. “Each team was impacted differently,” he said. Matt said the benefits of the settlement were that it opened the door for unlimited scholarships for the roster limits and each athlete on the roster potentially has the chance to have a full ride, of course based on financial availability of the sport. He reiterated that there have been improvements and challenges, adjusting to lower roster limits. The NCAA removed restrictions to student athlete financial aid. When asked about NIL, Matt explained there are opportunities from money to participating in a campaign (marketing and branding outside of KSU). He said that each student athlete must sign a Publicity and Participation agreement.

***Randy Kennedy, Associate Athletic Director of Academic Services*** said it has been a successful year and that there were numerous collaborations. He said that athlete student orientation went very well. “We want to make sure they get off to a good start, knowing the campus resources and understanding what the expectations are.”

Ivan Pulinkala asked about the 14-week semester. It was explained that in the fall 2026 academic calendar, per the USG, we can “include finals as part of instructional time.” This means 15 weeks including finals. Next year, school starts on Aug 24, 2026 and the end of April is the end of the school year. He shared that the day would start at 7:25am instead of 8:00am.

Matt Iwanski expressed his concerns saying how this (Aug 24 start date) will impact all our student athletes, creating a burden. Matt used football as an example saying they won’t have financial aid until 2 months after they must be on campus for athletics activities. He said, “Now some students will not be able to pay for living expenses for almost 2 months as they wait for their financial aid.”

Milton said, “we will work thought a short term and long-term solution/resolution.”

***Dan Niederjohn, Faculty Athletics Representative and Associate Professor of Psychology*** began his update with a request to vote on the policy related to home competition and missed class time, specifically for football. Dan proposed a revision to the policy. He handed the written policy to everyone in the room, reminding them that this revision was discussed during the April PAOC meeting. Patrick Vickers made a motion to approve the revision. It was asked if Asynchronous (aka online) will be affected as well. Per Randy, “most online courses have windows of time where their work needs to be done.” All were in favor of the revision. Dan said he will make the changes. Per Ivan Pulinkala, “this revision is effective now and this needs to be communicated out now.” Sheb also mentioned that starting next fall KSU is not test optional.

The next Meeting is November 13, 2025. This meeting was adjourned at 1:54pm.

The minutes from the September 4, 2025 meeting were approved on November 13, 2025..