

**OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS
Athletics Committee**

June 13, 2025

MINUTES

The Athletics Committee meeting took place in the Board Room (Room 2206) of the Kate and John R. Broderick Dining Commons from 10:30AM – 11:30AM on Friday, June 13, 2025. Present from the Committee were:

Mr. Ross Mugler, Chair
Dennis M. Ellmer, Vice Chair
Andrew Hodge (*ex-officio*)
Mr. Murry Pitts (*ex-officio*)
Ms. Susan Allen
Mr. Elza Mitchum

Also present from the Board:

Jerri F. Dickseski
Brian Holland
E.G. (Rudy) Middleton, III
Kedar Lavingia
Juan M. Montero, II
Bruce Thompson
Claire Wulf-Winiarek
D.R. (Rick) Wyatt

Also present were:

Brian O. Hemphill, President
Nicole Turner
Jerri Dickseski
Carolyn Crutchfield
Bruce Stewart
Annie Gibson
Annamarie Ginder
Erin Goodman
Kimberly Osborne

Brandi LaBanc
Mary Jo Karlis
Chad Reed
September Sanderlin
Ashley Schumaker
Wood Selig
Amanda Skaggs
Allen Wilson
Jena Virga

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ross Mugler at 10:30 am.

2. Approval of the December 5, 2024, Minutes

3. Academic Updates and Highlights for 2024-25

Amy Lynch, Director of Student-Athlete Services and Community Engagement

Dr. Wood Selig introduced Ms. Amy Lynch, Director of Student-Athlete Services and Community Engagement to the committee. Lynch provided an overview of the academic and community services highlights from the 2024-25 academic year. The department had a record highest yearly GPA of 3.34. 53% of 438 student-athletes had a 3.4 or above GPA. Three outstanding student-athletes were recognized – Kiersten Donnelly, women's swimming; Gustaf Hansson, men's swimming; Sydney Blackburn, rowing. Ms. Donnelly recently graduated with a Biomedical Science degree with a concentration in pre-health and finished her academic career with a 3.99 cumulative GPA. She was awarded the Sun Belt Conference (SBC) Top Female Scholar-Athlete and was the recipient of the SBC Postgraduate Scholarship Award of \$10k which will be used to pursue her medical school education in the fall. Mr. Hansson recently graduated with a Civil Engineering degree and had the highest cumulative GPA of all of the College of Engineering with a 4.0. He held the Engineering flag and was awarded his degree first at commencement for the College of Engineering. Mr. Hansson also won the Outstanding Scholar Award for the highest GPA for the ODU 2025 graduating class. Ms. Blackburn recently graduated with a degree in Nursing and minor in Administration Leadership, Ethics and Professional Roles with a cumulative GPA of 3.96. She was awarded the Big 12 Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Five men's swimming student-athletes were named to the Atlantic Sun Conference all-academic team and men's swimming sophomore Zach Redding was awarded the ASUN Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Mr. Redding is also the first male athlete admitted to the nursing program at ODU. Field Hockey had a record number of 15 student-athletes named to the NFHCA Academic Squad. Ten programs had student-athletes named to the CSC Academic All-District Team (Football (6), Women's Soccer (6) Volleyball (4), Men's Swimming (4), Women's Swimming (4), Women's Basketball (3), Women's Tennis (3), Men's Soccer (2), Men's Basketball (2), Men's Tennis (2)). Women's Tennis finished with the highest team GPA for women's teams with a 3.8 and Men's Golf had the highest yearly GPA of men's teams with 3.45.

ODU student-athletes donated a total of 11,046 hours of community service during the 2024-25 academic year – an increase of 3,400 hours from the previous year. Helper Helper and the NCAA released their annual report for 2024-25 and ODU was #4 in the country for community service. This is the first time in school history that ODU was in the top five. The Men's Swimming team was the top Male Team in the country for time donated to volunteerism and community engagement. Men's teams in the Top 10 for their sport were Men's Swimming (#1), Men's Soccer (#2), Men's Golf and Men's Tennis (#8) and Men's Basketball (#10). Women's teams in the Top 10 for their sport included Rowing (#1), Women's Soccer (#2), Women's Swimming (#3), Women's Golf (#6), Lacrosse (#8), and Field Hockey (#10).

4. 2024-25 Athletics Success

Mr. Eric Bohannon, Senior Associate Athletic Director, Broadcast and Communications

Dr. Selig introduced Mr. Eric Bohannon, Senior Associate Athletic Director for Broadcast and Communications. Mr. Bohannon provided an overview of notable athletic achievements of the department and student-athletes over the past academic year.

Football

- No. 1 in the country in Red Zone offense, scoring on 38 of 40 possessions inside the 20-yard line
- No. 1 in the SBC and No. 14 in the country with 209.8 rush yards per game
- No. 2 in the SBC in blocked kicks and punt return defense
- Four wins over teams that played in bowl games
- Colton Joseph and Quinn Henicle were named SBC Players of the Week against Georgia Southern and Arkansas State, respectively. They are the first two offensive players at ODU to receive the honor.
- Three home games were broadcast on linear television, the most in program history and tied for most in the SBC
 - Georgia Southern (ESPN2), Marshall (ESPNU), James Madison (ESPNU)
- A program record of average attendance of 20,072 per game was achieved with three game sellouts (ECU, Virginia Tech, JMU)
- ODU is the only Sun Belt school to return their starting quarterback (Colton Joseph) and leading tackler (Koa Naotala)

Field Hockey and Women's Soccer both reached the semifinals of their conference tournaments. Men's Soccer had their highest win percentage since 2018 with a record of 7-8-2 and although they ended up losing 3-2 in the first round of the Sun Belt tournament, they lost to Marshall who was the eventual national runner-up. Volleyball finished out the year with a record of 16-11, the most wins in program history. Men's Basketball saw 15 wins this season, an eight-win improvement from 2023-24, and won three games at the SBC tournament for the first time since 2019. Sean Durugordon and Robert Davis Jr. each earned Sun Belt Player of the Week honors. Women's Basketball had their fifth-consecutive winning season under Head Coach Delish Milton-Jones and had a pair of five-game winning streaks.

Women's Tennis won their fifth-straight conference championship and third-straight Sun Belt title. This was their sixth-straight NCAA tournament appearance, making them one of 25 schools and one of four non-power four schools with six-straight NCAA tournaments. They were ranked No. 43 in Final ITA rankings and Sofia Johnson was ranked No. 22 in the final rankings. Sofia Johnson and Victoria Matasova were ranked No. 90 in the final rankings. Sofia Johnson was also named third-team All-American, the first in 24 years for an ODU women's tennis player to earn Academic All-America Honors and was invited to play at Wimbledon this summer. She was also the only non-power four student-athlete to earn Academic All-American. Head Coach Dominic Manilla was named the Sun Belt Coach of the Year for the third year in a row. This is his sixth time being honored with Coach of the Year (C-USA Coach of the Year in 2019, 2020, 2021). Men's Tennis won their third-straight Sun Belt Championship and NCAA tournament berth, ranking No. 56 in the ITA final rankings. Connor and Codie Van Schalkwyk were No. 77 in final rankings and Connor Van Schalkwyk was No. 111 in Final Singles rankings. Head Coach Dominik Mueller was named Sun Belt Coach of the Year. He was awarded Co-Coach in 2023, and C-USA Coach of the Year in 2018. Baseball saw four wins over ranked opponents (Auburn, Southern Miss., Troy) and Chris Finwood won his 400th career game as head coach at ODU. He is 11 wins away from passing Bud Metheny as all-time winningest baseball coach at ODU.

The 2024-25 year was the highest net ticketing revenue in program history and set a program record for new net revenue. Football set a program record for Average Season Attendance (20,392 fans) and set a program record for Net Revenue Total (\$3,407,426). Revenue for football grew 43% year-over-year compared to FY23. Men's Basketball finished first in Average Attendance with 5,114 per game and saw their fifth-consecutive season of increased net revenue. It is the first time since the 2015-16 season that Men's Basketball increased their total paid season tickets and saw a 92% renewal percentage. Women's Basketball had the highest revenue total since the 2014-15 season.

In Sun Belt rankings, ODU was:

- #1 in Football Attendance Growth
- #8 in Total Football Attendance
 - #4 in Percentage to Capacity (all teams higher than ODU have larger stadiums)
- #1 Average Men's Basketball Attendance
- #3 Average Women's Basketball Attendance

5. House v. NCAA Settlement Updates
Danielle Cohea, Senior Associate AD, Compliance, Conduct, and Regulatory Affairs

Ms. Cohea provided an update on the current litigation of the House v. NCAA settlement and its terms. The settlement was approved by Judge Wilkin on Friday, June 6, 2025. There are three main components of the settlement – roster limits, additional benefits (direct NIL) and third-party NIL. The roster limits replace team aid limits, however designated student-athletes on an institutional list may be “grandfathered” in and can be exempt from the limits so long as they meet certain criteria. Institutions now have the ability to provide up to \$20.5M in direct institutional NIL above full cost-of-attendance scholarship. The Athletics Department will use software to track rosters, aid, and additional benefits to student-athletes. The College Sports Commission, in partnership with Deloitte, have developed a reporting system called NIL Go for reviewing third-party NIL deals with athletes that are equal to or greater than \$600 for payor association with the institution, establishing existence of a valid business purpose, and payment that is within range of compensation (fair market value).

6. Future of House Settlement and Recruiting Perspectives with Head Coaches
Dr. Camden Wood Selig, Director of Athletics, Ricky Rahne, Head Football Coach, Mike Jones, Head Men's Basketball Coach, Delisha Milton-Jones, Head Women's Basketball Coach

Each coach provided their perspective on how the House Settlement and NIL have affected recruiting and what they see as the future of recruiting in their respective sports. Coaches agreed that most recruits see NIL as the most important aspect of recruiting during visits and facilities have become secondary to the prospective student-athlete experience. Official visits that used to last two days now are handled within one day. The members of the committee had the opportunity to ask questions related to revenue share, the House Settlement, etc.

7. Adjourned at 11:39AM