



POLICY STATEMENT 110 LSU ATHLETIC COUNCIL

POLICY DIGEST

Monitoring Unit: Athletics
Initially Issued: June 8, 2004
Last Revised: April 1, 2016

I. PURPOSE

In compliance with Chapter 1, Section 1-3.3 of the Bylaws & Regulations of the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors, this policy statement establishes the membership, terms of office, voting and bylaws, and functions of the Athletic Council at Louisiana State University.

II. GENERAL POLICY

A. Establishment

As the chief executive officer of Louisiana State University, the President has clear and direct oversight of the Athletic Department and its programs. The Athletic Council is established to make recommendations to the President concerning the specific areas outlined in Section III-B of this policy statement, as well as to advise the President on any issue or activity he/she may request. In general terms, the purpose of the Athletic Council is to support the welfare of the student-athlete, protect institutional integrity, and insure compliance with NCAA and SEC rules concerning academics. By virtue of its responsibility and the thoughtfulness of its actions, the Athletic Council should play a central and influential role in the governance of athletics at Louisiana State University.

B. Membership*

The Athletic Council shall consist of 13 voting members and up to four nonvoting members. In appointing individuals to serve on the Athletic Council, the President shall consult with appropriate constituencies such as the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, Student Government, and the governing boards of support organizations. The faculty members, including the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR), will be appointed by the President from a list of candidates nominated by the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate shall provide a list of at least three candidates. Should these candidates be unable or unwilling to serve, or should the President find the candidates unacceptable, the President may request another different list. Membership descriptions and specific terms of office are shown below. The work of the Athletic Council is essential to the operation of the university. The Faculty Senate affirms that department chairs, deans, and other unit or program heads should recognize the importance of this work, especially that of the Faculty Athletic Representative, and should make concerted efforts to accommodate the appropriate released time requirements.

1. The voting members of the Athletic Council will consist of seven individuals with tenured faculty rank, two full-time students, one nonacademic staff person, and one person from each of three support organizations. Non-faculty members may be reappointed by his/her

unit to serve additional terms with the approval of the President.

- a. The Faculty Athletic Representative** will be appointed for a renewable five-year term, unless the President terminates the appointment. It is strongly recommended that the designee hold the rank of full professor or higher.
 - b. Five tenured faculty members, each to serve for a term of three years.
 - c. The Executive Vice President & Provost or his/her designee will be a permanent member. Any designee must have faculty rank of associate professor or higher.
 - d. The President of Student Government or his/her appointee to serve a term of one year.
 - e. One student-athlete representative to serve a term of one year.
 - f. One member of the non-academic staff to serve a term of three years.
 - g. One member of the LSU Alumni Association to serve a term of two years.
 - h. One member of the Tiger Athletic Foundation to serve a term of two years.
 - i. The President of the National "L" Club or his/her designee to serve a term of two years.
2. The non-voting members of the Athletic Council will include the following representatives:
- a. The Director of Athletics will be a permanent ex officio and non-voting member.
 - b. The Executive Director of the Academic Center for Student-Athletes will be a permanent ex officio and non-voting member.
 - c. One member of the President's administrative staff will be a permanent non-voting member.
 - d. One member of the LSU Alumni Association will be a non-voting member and serve a term of two years.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Voting and Bylaws

The Faculty Athletic Representative shall serve as the Chair of the Athletic Council. A quorum shall consist of seven voting members, at least four of whom shall hold faculty rank. Once a quorum is achieved, issues requiring a vote shall pass by simple majority. Electronic voting may be utilized.

B. Functions

As an advisory council to the President, the primary responsibility of the Athletic Council is to ensure student-athletes have the opportunity to reach their academic potential and to protect the academic integrity of LSU as it relates to athletics. The Council shall recommend policy, monitor compliance, and promote both a strong and supportive academic climate for student-athletes.

The President and the Director of Athletics may seek advice and recommendations from the Athletic Council concerning any issue they deem appropriate. A partial list of specific responsibilities follows:

1. Recommend Policy:
 - a. Assuring that student-athletes are provided adequate opportunity to successfully pursue their academic goals.
 - b. Establishing criteria for the award of letters to student-athletes.
 - c. Establishing criteria regarding the eligibility of student-athletes.

- d. Providing recommendations concerning the academic interaction among student-athletes, the Academic Center for Student-Athletes, and the faculty.
 - e. Responsible for making formal recommendations to the President in accordance with the University Effective Accommodation Plan for Title IX compliance.
2. Review/Approve:
- a. Exceptions to travel associated with intercollegiate competition in accordance with class attendance guidelines (see Appendix I).
 - b. Academic progress of student-athletes.
 - c. Appeals regarding the award of individual letter award winners.
 - d. Admission statistics for student-athletes.
 - e. Amendments and exceptions to the constitution of the LSU Athletic Hall of Fame.
 - f. Criteria for retirement of LSU Jerseys.
 - g. Athletic appeal hearings as requested.
3. Review/Supervise Relationships with SEC and NCAA:
- a. Recommend new or provide comments to proposed changes in NCAA and SEC bylaws, policies and/or procedures.
 - b. Monitor NCAA and SEC policy as it relates to student-athletes.

C. Delegation of Responsibilities

The Athletic Council shall have an executive committee. The committee shall be a permanent standing committee of the Council and shall consist of the Athletic Council Chair (FAR), two Council members from the faculty, one student representative, and one other voting member of the Council. The executive committee shall act on behalf of the Council on matters deemed by the Council to be impractical or unnecessary for full Council action. In addition, the Athletic Council Chair (FAR) shall fulfill certain Council responsibilities as appropriate and consistent with the NCAA definition of Faculty Athletic Representative responsibilities as well as other duties outlined by LSU. A partial list of responsibilities follows:

1. Executive Committee:
- a. Advise the President and the Athletic Director on emergency issues.
 - b. Monitor the admission of student-athletes.
 - c. Monitor the academic progress of student-athletes.
 - d. Advise the Academic Center for Student-Athletes.
 - e. Approve exceptions to team travel schedules that require timely consideration.
 - f. Serve as a working group for matters deemed worthy of further study.
 - g. Report actions to the Athletic Council at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
2. Faculty Athletics Representative: **
- a. Participate in the selection of a head coach or Athletic Director at the request of the President.
 - b. Review eligibility of student-athletes.
 - c. Make annual reports to the Faculty Senate.

- d. Serve on appeal panels.
- e. Intervene on behalf of student-athletes when appropriate.
- f. Participate in student-athlete admission decisions.
- g. Chair Effective Accommodation Plan for Title IX compliance as necessary.

D. **Rules and Procedures.** Governance issues not addressed by this Policy Statement shall conform to Robert's Rules of Order.

IV. SOURCES

*Article 6.1.2.1 of the NCAA Constitution requires that faculty and administrators constitute at least a majority of this Council.

**See NCAA Guidelines and LSU position outline for full description of duties and responsibilities of Faculty Athletic Representative.

Chapter 1, Section 1-3.3 of the Bylaws & Regulations of the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors

V. APPENDIX

A. Appendix I

1. Class Attendance Guidelines

The class attendance guidelines requires that no team miss more than 20 percent of class days each semester without permission of the Athletics Council. Travel departing on/after 2 p.m. does not constitute a missed class day for purposes of the calculation. The Athletics Council approves all team travel schedules that result in an exception to the 20 percent calculation. The Athletics Council also provides feedback to Academic Affairs for competition/travel issues that are not in standard compliance with a university guideline (e.g. participation/travel during *Concentrated Study Period*).

NCAA and SEC-scheduled events cannot be vetted by the university, and NCAA approved postseason events are not subject to the 20 percent rule.

The class attendance guidelines exist to assist with calculation of team travel; however, it is important to note that the academic needs of each individual student-athlete must be reviewed. In cases where warranted, the Academic Center for Student-Athletes will recommend traveling a full-time staff member to assist with study hall and other academic requirements.

The Academic Center for Student Athletes will provide a class excuse letter for all individuals who miss class in accordance with approved team travel.