

ANNUAL REPORT

A

Athletic Committee

**University of North Alabama
Florence, Alabama**

Dr. Scott Lyons

Committee Chair

July 17, 2026

Date submitted

Submitted to: Dr. Lauren Killen
Chair, Shared Governance Executive Committee

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026

I. Executive Summary

The 2025-26 Athletic Committee included the following members:

- Ms. Corrie Dalrymple (by position)
- Mr. Walker Barnett (SGA, 2026)
- Dr. Minnette Ellis (by position)
- Ms. Kate Hanbery (by position)
- Ms. Laurie Holder (by position)
- Dr. Scott Infanger (Faculty, 2027)
- Dr. Ansley Quiros (Faculty, 2028)
- Ms. Ava Byrd (SGA, 2026)
- Dr. Josh Looney (by position)
- Dr. Lamont Maddox (Faculty, 2028, Vice Chair)
- Dr. Janae Lyde (Athletics Minority Staff, 2027)
- Dr. Scott Lyons (Faculty, 2027, Chair)
- Ms. Christa Raney (Faculty, 2026)
- Dr. Jeffery Ray (by position, FAR)
- Mr. Evan Thornton (by position)
- Dr. KC White (by position)
- Ms. Debbie Williams (by position)
- Ms. Savannah Gaertner (SGA, 2026)

Dr. Scott Lyons served as Committee Chair for 2025-26 and Dr. Lamont Maddox, as the Vice Chair, is expected to serve in this capacity for the 2026-27 academic year. The Athletic Committee is charged with ensuring that the athletics program is compliant with policies (procedures, laws, etc.) enacted by the NCAA, ASUN/UAC, and state and federal government. The committee was organized into two workgroups: Gender Equity and Minority Opportunity. However, those two workgroups were dissolved this year and those two items were added to the regular meeting agenda for the committee. The Athletic Committee met two times in this academic year (a third meeting had to be cancelled) to discuss factors impacting the welfare of student athletes at UNA (e.g. UNA resources available to student-athletes, policy changes enacted by the NCAA) in the ever-changing landscape of college athletics.

II. The Committee's Charge (from the Shared Governance Document)

1. Ensure the proper role of athletics within the overall mission of the university
2. Ensure the integrity of the athletics program with regard to NCAA, Gulf South Conference, state and federal law compliance, gender equity, and support for the principles presented by the Knight Foundation's Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics
3. Review and monitor (as necessary, assist in developing) all compliance procedures and recommend institutional procedural changes based upon changes in NCAA rules
4. Assign and document responsibilities for compliance tasks
5. Work to maintain the proper perspective of athletic competition within the university life of the student-athlete
6. Monitor the academic performance and progress made by student-athletes
7. Oversee all programs designed to ensure the academic success, personal development and personal welfare of student-athletes
8. Handle all proposals affecting University policy according to section C.2 "Shared Governance Procedure for Policy Change Recommendations"
9. To submit a final written report electronically by the first contract day of the academic year to the President with a copy sent to the Chair of the Shared Governance Executive Committee.

III. The Committee met on the following dates:

- September 5, 2025
- January 30, 2026
- Committee was also scheduled to meet on April 24, 2026, but the meeting was cancelled and reports were distributed via email due to multiple members on the agenda having to miss the meeting (Athletic Director, Compliance Representative, and Faculty Athletics Representative), plus others having to miss the meeting due to the city schools not being in session (and thus being with their children).

IV. What were the Committee's actions and accomplishments this year relative to each of the items of the charge?

The Athletics Committee worked throughout the year to support the integration of athletics within the university's broader mission. This included celebrating academic excellence among student-athletes, adoption of the Teamworks management system to assist with communication team travel and athletics-related class absences, impact of NIL, transfer portal, and House settlement issues, supporting student development through initiatives such as the Athletics Mentoring Program, adding flag football and men's & women's indoor/outdoor track, conference realignment, and supporting the expansion of athletic facilities on our campus. Regular updates from the Faculty Athletics Representative and Athletics Director emphasized the importance of balancing athletic participation with academic achievement and personal growth.

Compliance remained a key focus, with committee discussions centered on the impacts of NIL policies, transfer portal challenges, scholarship appeals, and updates to NCAA regulations.

No formal policy changes were proposed; however, the committee reaffirmed that its structure, meeting frequency, and purpose remain appropriate. A final written report was prepared and submitted in accordance with university procedures.

V. What were the Committee's formal recommendations?

As the Gender Equity and Minority Opportunity Workgroups had reached their five-year time limit, the committee formally recommended dissolving both of those workgroups and rolling those initiatives into the regular committee agenda. There were no additional formal recommendations. It should be noted there was discussion regarding a formal revision to the committee's charge. However, as the committee's charge was just updated during the prior year and also due to the last-minute cancellation of the April meeting, this discussion will be continued in the 2026-27 academic year.

VI. What does the Committee plan to accomplish?

A. In the coming year?

Continued monitoring of UNA Athletics' role within the university context, with particular attention to student-athletes' welfare and academic success amid the evolving landscape of college athletics and NCAA regulations.

B. In future years?

As noted above, the committee will continue to meet and respond to ongoing changes in NCAA regulations, House settlement recommendations, and NIL/transfer portal issues. Currently, no specific or targeted goals have been identified for future academic years.

VII. What are the Committee's weaknesses?

No weaknesses were noted by the members. The committee seems to have adequate representation from across campus, and all members seem to be invested in their role to support university athletics.

A. What can the Shared Governance Committee help you do to address the weaknesses?

N/A

VIII. Comments

This is a good committee that functions well as everyone knows and respects their role. The Department of Athletics is always well-represented at the meetings. Athletic Director Dr. Josh Looney always provides a detailed, comprehensive report, as does Mrs. Anna Milwee-Hovater specifically regarding compliance issues. Dr. Jeffery Ray, as Faculty Athletic Representative, is highly invested in his role representing the faculty in all matters related to athletics and the NCAA. The faculty members of the committee (as well as others serving in an ex officio capacity) understand that this committee does not make policy, but rather serves in an advisory role to the Department of Athletics. I believe this committee continues to provide value to our athletic programs and to UNA as a whole.