Report of the Faculty Athletics Representative 5 December 2018

On behalf of CAP, the Committee on Academic Performance of the ULAA Board, I have a good report. CAP has successfully revised several policies that pertain to student-athlete well-being, and we are well on our way to solidifying a process for Annual Academic Integrity Oversight. Yesterday, we were delighted to welcome Lisa Dickman, Academic Compliance Officer from the Registrar's Office, for an educational presentation on the processes that pertain to NCAA "Compliance and Academic Certification Responsibilities and Deadlines." Hers is an exacting yet essential position, as she is the one (outside of Athletics) who makes sure that every bit of data we submit is correct and each student-athlete's eligibility is intact. By the way, the Registrar's Office reminds us that the deadline for submitting grades is earlier this year, so faculty are reminded to submit grades on time so that student GPAs can be calculated for the next semester and for eligibility. CAP is also in process of revising our annual questionnaire for student-athletes to be sure that we are adequately gauging their concerns and their experience as an important constituency of our student body.

As FAR, I attended on December 1 a meeting of the ACC FAR Council in Charlotte in conjunction with the Annual ACC Football Hall of Legends Banquet which I attended (and in conjunction with the ACC Football Championship game---which I did not attend). At that banquet, our own Roman Oben (1992-1995) was honored, and it was my pleasure to cheer for him on behalf of U of L. Roman was a powerful offensive lineman who now serves as the NFL's Director of Youth and High School Football. Also in Charlotte for the proceedings was our former kicker and winner of the Lou Groza award in 2003, Art Carmody. Art is now a VP with Business First Bank in Shreveport and is affiliated with the Independence Bowl. Both are great ambassadors for U of L.

The FAR meeting was productive. We shared a number of documents that pertain to our athletics programs in the context of our universities' missions, working on a best practices handbook. I am pleased to report that the latest NCAA Graduation Success Rate release reveals that U of L is faring respectably in relation to our ACC peers.

As we come to the end of another semester, I wonder if we can take a moment to ponder how transformative this fall semester has been. As faculty at U of L, all of us are deeply engaged with our students and our research, as always. Our offices are cluttered with exams, papers, and the remains of projects now completed (and some just begun), as always. Our worries about deadlines, disappointments, and issues that divide us persist. Yet, this December I sense renewal. We have a new president who seeks to foster that renewal, and in many ways we are moving forward in our quest to educate and ameliorate our corners of the world. I am thankful for our new leadership, in their many roles, who give us momentum--and who make us proud of our contributions.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Wise, FAR

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