

Report of the Faculty Athletics Representative

February 2022

The Committee on Academic Performance (CAP) met on January 11, 2022 via TEAMS. We hope to return to a hybrid meeting in March. February's meeting will be subcommittee meetings only.

Nominees for the annual ULAA election are currently being received from units. The campus wide election should launch late March/early April.

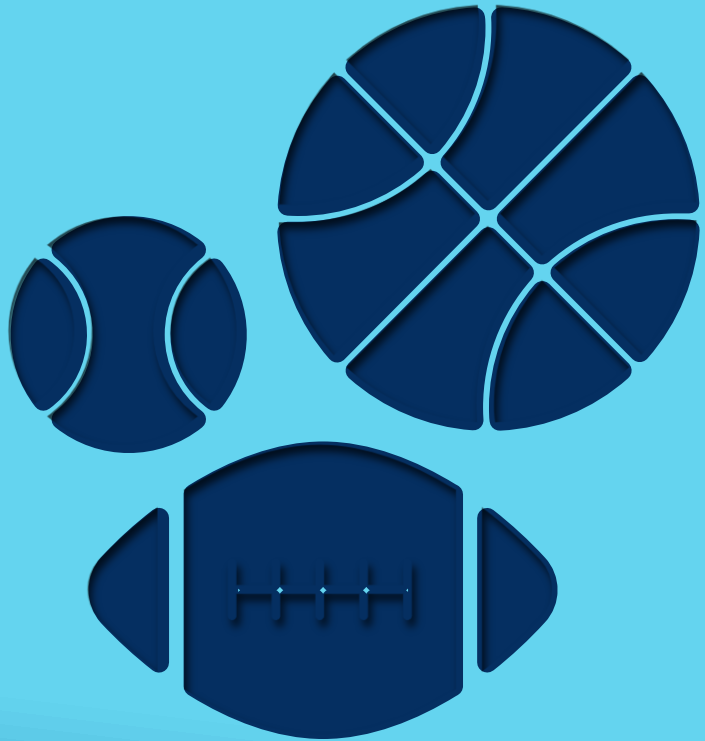
At the January 2022 meeting, Associate AD Matt Banker reviewed some highlights of the Alston case, an anti-trust case in which current and former FB/MBB/WBB student-athletes challenged the NCAA's limits on student-athlete compensation in the form academic benefits. The district court issued an injunction and specified that the NCAA could continue to limit cash awards for academic achievement — but only so long as those limits are no lower than the cash awards allowed for athletic achievement (currently **\$5,980** annually). U of L Athletics is assessing graduation, GPA, and retention data and budget capacity in formulating potential Alston academic and graduation achievement awards. The U of L Financial Aid Office is being consulted as it relates to potential impacts that Alston awards may have on individual student-athlete's financial aid packages. Title IX policies are also a key consideration in a proposed plan, and an Alston awards model for U of L Athletics could be in place as early as Fall 2022.

Additional FAR activities include representing the ACC FARs on the ACC SAAC, reviewing grade changes and NCAA waivers, reviewing NCAA post grad and ACC post grad scholarships, , attending senior day for each sport to support the student-athletes, and attending the upcoming ACC Winter Meeting (February 9-11).

Thank you and Go Cards!

Krista Wallace-Boaz, UL FAR

THE *ALSTON* CASE & ITS IMPACT ON COLLEGE ATHLETICS



University of Louisville

Committee on Academic Performance

January 11, 2022

Matthew Banker

ALSTON CASE

- ▶ *Alston* was an anti-trust case in which current and former FB/MBB/WBB student-athletes challenged the NCAA's limits on student-athlete compensation in the form of academic benefits (e.g., scholarships up to the COA).
- ▶ The district court issued an injunction and specified that:

*"...the NCAA could continue to limit cash awards for academic achievement — but only so long as those limits are no lower than the cash awards allowed for athletic achievement (currently **\$5,980** annually)."*

ALSTON CASE

- ▶ The Supreme Court affirmed (9-0) the lower Courts' rulings that struck down the NCAA's caps on student-athlete academic benefits (*i.e.* reimbursements and pay for academic-related expenses) on antitrust grounds.
- ▶ The *Alston* case is part of broader narrative re: student-athlete compensation limits and employer/employee status.
- ▶ This \$5,980 annual amount for academic and graduation awards and incentives = "Alston money"

ALSTON CASE

- ▶ Based on subsequent NCAA waiver, *Alston* award money can be provided to student-athletes in all sports even though court case was specific to current and former MBB, FB, and WBB student-athletes.
- ▶ Institutions and Conferences can determine what, if any, *Alston* money can be awarded to student-athletes for academic or graduation awards and incentives.

ALSTON CASE

- ▶ U of L Athletics is assessing graduation, GPA, and retention data and budget capacity in formulating potential *Alston* academic and graduation achievement awards.
- ▶ U of L Financial Aid Office consulted as it relates to potential impacts that *Alston* awards may have on individual student-athlete's financial aid packages.
- ▶ Title IX policies also a key consideration in a proposed plan.
- ▶ An *Alston* awards model for U of L Athletics could be in place as early as Fall 2022.

ALSTON CASE

