

Summary of Athletic Advisory Council Activities 2017-2018

The group spent the year working on two specific initiatives that were designed to further integrate academics and athletics across campus.

Faculty Recruiting Liaisons

The first initiative was to develop a list of faculty to serve as recruiting liaisons for the TCNJ athletics department. For many prospective students, the first representative of TCNJ with whom they have contact is a coach. These students often have interest in specific majors. We are hoping that a list of recruiting liaisons will provide coaches with a consistent and reliable way of getting information to prospective students.

The role of recruiting liaison:

1. Be committed to the TCNJ Student Athlete experience
2. Promptly return calls from coaches when they have questions about academic programs
3. Be a point of contact if a prospective student wants to talk to a member of an academic department
4. If schedules permit, meet with prospective students who have shown interest in a particular academic department.

A faculty member from each department across campus was recruited to participate and the list of those faculty members participating has been shared with the TCNJ coaching staff.

The liaison list will need to be updated periodically.

Faculty Mentor Program

The second initiative developed by the council which will be recommended to the Committee on Student and Campus Community (CSCC) was the development of a Faculty Mentorship Program that is preliminarily scheduled be launched in the 2018-2019 academic year. The council researched similar programs across the country and developed a program that we believe best meets the needs of TCNJ student athletes. The roles and responsibilities associated with the Faculty Mentor position are described below.

Faculty Mentor Roles and Responsibilities

The **TCNJ Educational and Athletic Mentoring Program** (TCNJ TEAM) is an avenue to facilitate the integration of athletics and academics. The faculty mentor will interact with student athletes to understand the realities associated with balancing academic and athletic obligations, provide opportunities for informal learning outside of the classroom. In addition, faculty mentors serve as an important resource for the assigned sport coaching staff.

The purpose of the program is to

- Support the academic development of the student-athlete.
- Promote understanding and communication between faculty, athlete, and students.
- Provide coaches an additional resource to help advise student-athletes with academic matters.
- Be a resource or counsel the student-athlete on issues of mental health and well-being.
- Informally interact with student-athletes and coaches.
- Facilitate a student-athlete and professor interactions.
- Advise and help on how to adjust to college life.

There is no one way to be a faculty mentor, but rather a number of suggestions are provided below which lead to successful mentoring relationships.

Suggestions for Faculty Mentor Interactions with Student-Athletes-

- Be visible at a home event or travel to an away events as time permits
- Eat pre-game meal with the team
- Attend practices and games.
- Attend a team meeting to discuss ways to balance participation on an athletic team and achieve academic success
- Provide student-athletes and coaches a contact for academic questions
- Attend end of the season banquet/celebration
- Attend special team function, cook-outs, dinners, lunches, adventure activities, runs.
- Participate in team's service projects(s)
- Attend team social events (cookouts, movie night, etc.)

Benefits for Faculty

- Increased engagement with students outside the classroom and across disciplines
- Make a significant impact on the academic development of the student-athlete.
- Generate opportunities outside of the classroom for informal curricular discussions
- Assist in creating meaningful relationships with student-athletes.
- Welcomed to the sideline during games and practices.
- Receive Team Apparel
- Invited to team functions, barbecues, and banquets.

- Included on the team roster and featured on tcnjathletics.com

Each faculty mentor will have their own style and way of interacting with the student-athletes and coaches. The amount of time spent with the team will vary from mentor to mentor. It is not necessary for the mentor to be an expert in the sport field. They are there to create a partnership between faculty, student-athletes, and coaches. You will work in cooperation with the team coach who may assist you in determining of areas of need.

Finally, we elected Dr. Sudhir Nayak as the Athletic Advisory Council Chair for the 2018-2019 academic year who lead the group in the launch of the program.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stuart Roe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and 'R'.

Stuart Roe

Athletic Advisory Council Chair, 2017-2018