

To: Members of the Faculty Senate  
From: Clay Stoldt, Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR)  
Kevin Saal, Director of Athletics (AD)  
Date: April 2, 2024  
Re: Annual Update from FAR and AD

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Please accept this brief in fulfillment of the annual reporting requirement for the Faculty Athletics Representative to the Faculty Senate. As has become custom for such reports to key university stakeholders, FAR Stoldt and AD Saal collaborated on this update. In the following sections, we provide brief updates regarding the academic success of our student-athletes, the latest progress toward the full activation of the recommendations in the Athletics Policy and Culture Task Force report, and improvement of overall student-athlete experiences.

#### Academic Success of Student-Athletes

This has been a record-setting year regarding the academic success of our student-athletes. When AD Saal arrived in 2022, he and Athletics leadership established clear strategic objectives (see Appendix A) pertaining to academic performance, community engagement, and competitive success. The strategic goal for academic success was to in 1 of the next 10 semesters for the first time ever in Shocker Athletics, attain a departmentwide semester GPA of 3.40. Our student-athletes attained that lofty goal in the Spring 2023 semester, securing a 3.406 GPA. That all-time high did not last long however, because in the Fall 2023 semester, our student-athletes achieved a remarkable 3.450 GPA. Equally impressive, and again for the first time, every team in the department secured a 3.0 or better semester GPA. Three teams secured their highest semester GPA (see Appendix B).

The department is also performing well on other key indicators relating to the academic success of our student-athletes. The department sustained its qualification for NCAA Academic Enhancement Funds (AEF) by meeting two of the three possible eligibility benchmarks: Academic Progress Rate (APR) of 985. And all



## Activation of Recommendations from Athletics Policy and Culture Task Force

Progress continued this year in fully enacting the recommendations stipulated in the 2021 Athletics Policy and Culture (APC) Task Force. As you may recall, in our Spring 2023 update to the Faculty Senate, we reported that 37 of the recommendations had been substantially completed. As of this report date, 39 have been enacted with good progress being made on the other two recommendations. We will provide additional details about our work in 2023-24 in our next report to the Senate in Fall 2024.

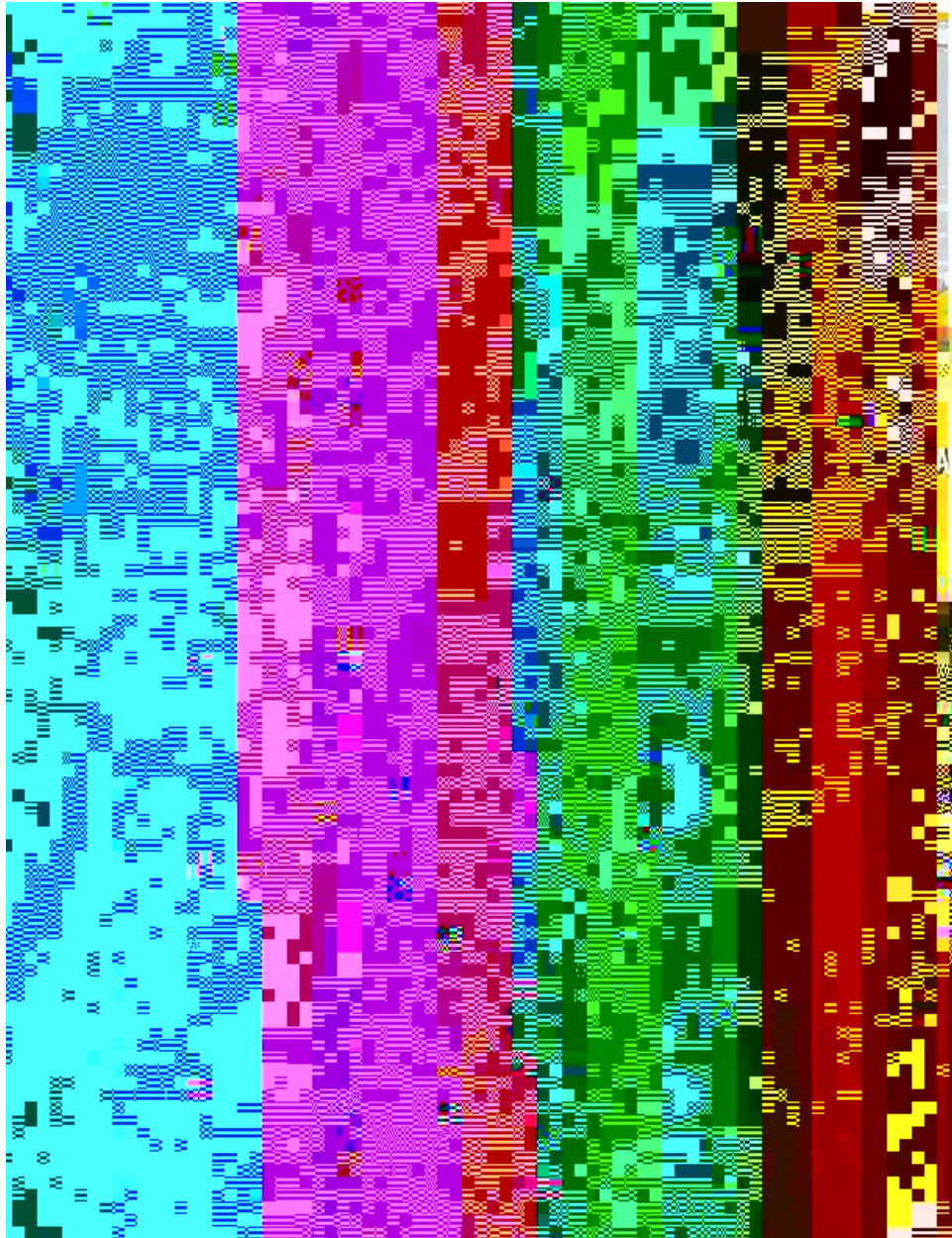
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- Studentathlete overall ratings of head coaches and position coaches exceeded the national average thus indicating a high quality staff both in terms of coaching skill but also commitment to studentathlete wellbeing.
- Studentathlete evaluations in the areas of Athletic Training and Mental Health Resources improved from trailing the national average in 2022 to exceeding it in Fall 2023.



## Appendix A The Shocker Way: Five Year Strategic Objectives





Appendix Bt



## Appendix Ct StudentAthlete Experience and Success Highlights

