

**Report to the CSUN Faculty Senate  
by Faculty Athletics Representative Dr. Tina Kiesler  
April 2015**

The Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) is a faculty member designated by the University's chief executive officer to represent the institution and its faculty in its relationship with the NCAA and its conference(s). The FAR's responsibilities involve academic integrity, institutional control and compliance, and the well-being of student-athletes.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic Success:

The Athletics Department's mission is one of *comprehensive excellence*. Each year the Athletics Department celebrates the academic accomplishments of student-athletes with the Varsity N honor roll for student-athletes who have completed one season of competition and have averaged a 3.2+ GPA over the previous spring and fall (2014) semesters. This year's celebration took place at the VPAC on March 25. This year a record-breaking 81 student-athletes were honored. Forty-seven of them were new inductees.

Two student-athletes were acknowledged for earning the highest GPA over the spring and fall 2014 semesters. Marcelo Rosales is a Kinesiology-Exercise Science major and a cross-country and track & field scholar-athlete who earned a 3.92 GPA in 2014. Cassandra (Casey) Hinger is a Psychology and Child & Adolescent Development double-major and a volleyball/sand volleyball scholar-athlete who earned a 3.968 in 2014. She was also the Big West Conference Scholar Athlete in 2013. Not only did these two scholar-athletes excel academically in 2014 but they are both multi-sport athletes who compete during the fall (cross-country; indoor volleyball) as well as the spring (track & field; sand volleyball). The men's and women's teams with the highest team GPAs across spring and fall 2014 were the women's tennis team and the men's golf team. This is the second consecutive year the women's tennis team earned the highest team GPA award.

This is second year of the Dick Enberg Post-Graduate Scholarship for Academic Excellence. This \$5000 annual scholarship was awarded to Kiernan Davis, a graduate student in the MPA program and a water polo (goalkeeper) scholar-athlete.

Each year the Big West Conference honors a male and female scholar-athlete from each university in the conference. The honors are awarded to scholar-athletes who excel in the classroom and in their sport. This year's CSUN Big West Conference Scholar-Athletes are Jordan Taylor (an Economics major with a minor in Finance and a track and field sprinter) and Marisa Young (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology major and a center on the water polo team).

Academic Progress Rate (APR):

In 2004 Division I of the NCAA adopted the Academic Progress Rate as a measure of a team's academic performance on a term-by-term basis. Each student-athlete *on athletic scholarship* can earn two points per term, one point for staying academically eligible and another point for staying in school (or graduating). The APR is determined at the end of the academic year by dividing the number of points earned by all team members on athletic scholarship by the total points possible. The result is multiplied by 1000.

$$\text{APR} = \frac{[(\text{Retention Point} + \text{Eligibility Point}) * \text{Terms}] * \text{Student-Athletes on Ath. Aid}}{\text{Total Possible Points}} * 1000$$

At the start of each academic year we report the previous academic year's APR to the NCAA. (We will report 2014-15 APR for each team to the NCAA in Fall 2015.) Those data become public the following spring, usually in May. Thus, the 2013-14 academic year APRs will become public soon and I will be happy to report the results to you at that time. The NCAA is interested in single-year APRs for each team and multi-year APR over a four-year time period. APRs below 930 may result in penalties.

The most recent published APR data are for the 2012-13 academic year. In the 2012-13 academic year, all of our teams met the 930 threshold. Seven teams had perfect single-year APRs Those teams are men's golf, men's volleyball, women's cross-country, women's tennis, women's indoor and outdoor track & field teams, and women's water polo. Two teams had single-year APRs below 930 but both of those teams had multi-year APRs that exceeded the 930 threshold.

#### The NCAA Accelerating Academic Success Grant:

This is the third and final year of our \$900,000 NCAA Accelerating Academic Success Grant. The grant funded the development and ongoing costs of the Matador Achievement Center. It opened in September 2013 to provide tutoring and mentoring for student-athletes. It provides laptops and tablets for check-out and space for study. The Matador Achievement Center has become a source of pride for student-athletes. In summer 2014 the grant funded a Summer Success Program for incoming freshmen student-athletes. Student-athletes were enrolled in two summer-session classes, engaged in weekly workshops for academic and life success, and took part in a Heal the Bay beach cleanup. The goal of the program is to acclimate them to academic life on campus, to teach them time management skills for academic, athletic, and life success, and to introduce them to expectations regarding university and community engagement. The grant will fund a second year of incoming freshmen student-athletes this July.

#### **Institutional Control and Compliance**

The CSUN Athletics Department has monthly compliance meetings with coaches. I attend those meetings when possible. The Big West Conference office also holds regular compliance meetings for athletics personnel. A representative from the conference will be meeting with the athletics department May 19, 2015. Coaches also take an annual NCAA recruiting exam. The FAR proctors that exam and reports the results to the compliance staff and to the conference office. In addition, we have a compliance review committee in place that meets regularly. The NCAA holds an annual Regional Rules Seminar to provide review of its rules and education regarding upcoming changes in NCAA rules. This year's seminar is in early June in Denver.

The NCAA used to categorizes violations into two categories --major or secondary. More recently they have moved to a four-category system. A category 1 violation is the most serious. Categories 3 and 4 are what would have been termed secondary violations in the old system. These are minor violations that do not include extra benefits or any significant recruiting benefits. CSUN had 6 violations so far this year, none of them major violations. I can provide a summary upon request. It is useful to benchmark the number of violations to that of the Big West Conference average. In 2013-14, ten violations was the average across the campuses in the Big West Conference.

#### **Student Athletes' Wellbeing:**

The Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) consists of student athlete representatives from all the intercollegiate athletic teams at Cal State Northridge. The student leaders determine their goals for the year and create an environment of enthusiasm, spirit, and inclusion on the campus. They serve to engage with the campus community and the community surrounding our campus. This year the SAAC members worked with the MEND program (Meet Every Need with Dignity) to provide holiday cheer for needy

families. They participated in the Big West Coin Drive. In addition, each Friday different teams visited Granada Elementary School to assist with their 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading program. This is also the inaugural year of their Matador 2000 initiative—they have a goal to achieve 2000 community services hours by the end of the academic year. These are only some examples of the SAAC’s many enriching activities.

The Athletics Department has added some services that can greatly enhance student-athlete wellbeing. CSUN Kinesiology faculty member Dr. Ashley Samson is now providing team and individual sports psychology services. Simona Hradil is providing nutritional advice to student-athletes in association with the Athletics Department Sports Medicine division while completing her master’s degree in Nutrition.

**Faculty Liaison Program:**

This year we revived the Faculty Liaison Program and implemented it with eight teams. The program is designed to enhance faculty understanding of the student-athlete life and to provide student-athletes with academic and life-skills role models and mentors. Based on student and faculty feedback at the conclusion of this year, the program will be expanded to more teams in the future. Faculty members engage with and mentor student-athletes through faculty-led workshops on topics of their choice. Faculty members are also urged to travel with the team to at least one competitive event off campus. These are the current 2014-15 Faculty Liaisons:

<b>Team</b>	<b>Faculty Liaison for Spring 15</b>
Baseball	Dr. Claire White, Religious Studies
Basketball – Men’s Team	Dr. Boris Ricks, Political Science
Basketball – Women’s Team	Dr. Amanda Baugh, Religious Studies
Soccer – Men’s Team	Dr. Amy Levin, Chair of Social Work
Soccer – Women’s Team	Dr. Ed Jackiewicz, Chair of Geography
Softball	Wendy Yost, RTM
Volleyball – Men’s Team	Dr. Sean Flanagan, Interim Chair of Kinesiology
Volleyball – Women’s Team	Dr. Julie Gainsburg, Chair of Secondary Education

**Team Athletic Accomplishments:**

A summary of team athletic accomplishments is attached to this report. Our spring sports are still in season at the time of this report. Water Polo, Men’s and Women’s Golf, and Women’s Tennis are competing in their Big West Conference tournaments during the last two weeks of April. Baseball, Softball, and Track & Field are still in their regular competitive seasons.

**Missed Class Policy:**

Each year I like to remind faculty of our campus missed class policy as it pertains to our student-athletes. Student athletes choose their courses with the assistance of their academic advisors in an effort to make favorable progress toward their degrees while also fulfilling NCAA academic progress requirements. They do their best to choose sections of courses that minimize missed class time during their sports season while trying to maximize their progress towards their degree. It’s important that faculty know students are trying their best to minimize missed class time. Athletic competition is a university-approved activity and student-athletes are supposed to meet with their professors during the first week of classes to a) provide their professors with a letter that details the dates of University-approved athletic events (faculty are supposed to sign this letter to indicate they have received it) and b) discuss how the professor would like the student-athlete to complete any activities that may be missed due to those university-approved athletic events.

A formal missed class policy was adopted by the Faculty Senate and is listed in the University Catalog<sup>1</sup> as follows:

*When representing the University in official curriculum-related, university-approved activities requires a student to miss classes, faculty are expected to provide, within reason, opportunity to make up any work or exams that are missed.*

*To be eligible for such accommodation, the student is obligated to provide the instructor of the class with written documentation signed by the faculty, staff member or administrator supervising the activity, giving specific information concerning the activity, its location, and the dates and times when class attendance is not possible. This documentation must be submitted to the instructor during the first week of the semester or as soon as the information becomes known. Instructors may set limits on the number of classes that may be missed for which special accommodation to make up missed work will be allowed. The process for making up missed class work is the prerogative of the instructor and shall be communicated to the affected students during the first week of classes or as soon as the need for accommodation becomes known...*

*Absence from class for official curriculum-related, University-approved activities does not relieve students from responsibility for any part of the course work required during the period of absence.*

*University sponsors of these activities have an obligation to respect the importance of regular class attendance for successful academic performance and to minimize the number of such absences. Instructional faculty have an obligation to respect the importance of such student participation, and to assist student participants in meeting their academic obligations.*

***This is my final year as our campus Faculty Athletics Representative. It has been an honor to serve our faculty, President, and campus in this role.***

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<sup>1</sup>[http://www.csun.edu/senate/policies/missed\\_classes.pdf](http://www.csun.edu/senate/policies/missed_classes.pdf)

**2014-15 Summaries of CSUN Athletics Team Accomplishments**  
**Provided to Dr. Tina Kiesler, Faculty Athletics Representative**  
**from Amy Millstone, Assoc. Athletics Director for Strategic Communications**  
**As of April 20, 2015**

## **FALL SPORTS**

### **Men's Soccer:**

- CSUN finished 7-9-3 overall and 3-5-2 in the Big West Conference
- Sagi Lev-Ari and Edwin Rivas were drafted by MLS Clubs – This marks the first time in school history CSUN has had multiple draft picks
- CSUN had five selections to the All-Big West Conference Team, including one to the NSCAA All-Far West Region Team
- Sagi Lev-Ari was named a candidate for the Senior CLASS Award, the top all-around student-athlete in the country
- Sagi Lev-Ari was named the Big West Player of the Week and selected to College Soccer News' National Team of the Week on Sept. 8, 2014
- Sagi Lev-Ari became the 4th player in Big West history to score 40 career goals

### **Women's Soccer:**

- CSUN finished 7-11-2 overall and 4-3-1 in the Big West Conference (Fourth Place)
- CSUN qualified for the Big West Tournament for the fifth time in six years
- Six Matadors were named to 2014 All-Big West Team
- Senior Leandra Walker and junior Taylor Hobson were named First Team All-Big West

### **Women's Volleyball:**

- CSUN finished the season 19-9 and tied for third in the Big West Conference at 10-6
- Casey Hinger was named an AVCA All-American for a school record third time
- The Matadors had four players named to the 2014 All-Big West Team

### **Women's Cross Country:**

- Elizabeth Nelson finished third at the Big West Championships, the best finish for a CSUN woman since 2009
- CSUN placed sixth as a team, its highest finish since 2002
- Nelson won individual races at the Aztec Invitational as well as the San Francisco Invitational

### **Men's Cross Country:**

- The CSUN men finished eighth at the Big West Championships
- Angel Alcantar finished a team-best 32nd at the Big West Championships
- Jackson Higgins posted CSUN's best finish of the year, taking fourth at the Aztec Invitational

## **WINTER SPORTS**

### **Men's Basketball:**

- CSUN finished 9-24 overall and 4-12 in the Big West Conference, qualifying for the Big West Tournament
- CSUN finished second at the EA Sports Maui Invitational Regional Games
- Head coach Reggie Theus was honored by the Sacramento Kings as an "Original 1985 Legend"
- Stephan Hicks broke CSUN's All-Time Scoring record
- Stephen Maxwell became CSUN's All-Time Leading Rebounder

- Devonte Elliott was named Big West Player of the Week on Jan. 19, 2015
- Aaron Parks was named Big West Player of the Week on Mar. 2, 2015
- Stephan Hicks became the Big West Conference's all-time leader in free throws made
- Aaron Parks broke a Big West and CSUN record with 19 free throws made against UCR on 2/28
- Stephan Hicks and Stephen Maxwell were named to All-Big West Conference Team

#### **Women's Basketball:**

- CSUN finished 23-10 overall and 11-5 in the Big West Conference (Second Place)
- CSUN won the Big West Tournament and participated in the NCAA Tournament for the second-straight year
- Ashlee Guay was named First Team All-Big West and the Big West Tournament MVP for the second-straight year
- Seniors Janae Sharpe and Cinnamon Lister were named Honorable Mention All-Big West
- The team set a program record for most wins in a season, regardless of NCAA Division
- Ashlee Guay graduates as the school record holder in career points (1,761), career assists (541), career 3-pointers (170), career steals (296), career field goal attempts (1,483), career games played (129), career starts (129) and career minutes played (4,276)
- Ashlee Guay set the CSUN record for points in a single season
- Janae Sharpe was named the Big West Defensive Player of the Year and to the All-Big West Tournament Team
- Camille Mahlknecht set a program record for blocked shots

#### **SPRING SPORTS**

##### **Men's Volleyball:**

- The Matadors finished the 2015 season at 10-17 overall and 7-15 in the MPSF
- As of Apr. 20, CSUN is ranked 13<sup>th</sup> nationally in the AVCA Coaches Top-15 Poll
- The Matadors were ranked in 12 of the 16 Top-15 Polls in 2015
- CSUN posted wins over No. 8 UC Santa Barbara, No. 7 USC and No. 13 Stanford
- Seniors Travis Magorien and Greg Faulkner close out four-year careers ranked among the statistical leaders in Matador history

##### **Sand Volleyball:**

- In its second season of sand volleyball, the Matadors finished with a dual match record of 3-8
- The highlight of the season was the opening of the Matador Sand Volleyball Facility on Mar. 5
- CSUN posted wins over Cal Poly, TCU and Boise State
- The duo of Casey Hinger and Kelcie Randazzo won a team-high eight matches including a second place finish at the "Dads" Founders Cup Tournament in Oahu
- The duo of Nada Dragovic and Alia Casino finished second on the team with five dual match wins

##### **Baseball:**

- As of April 20, the Matadors are 23-15 overall and 3-9 in the Big West Conference
- To date, CSUN has earned its best start in 18 seasons with a 9-1 start
- The Matadors defeated #13 UC Santa Barbara in extra innings, 3-2
- Rayne Raven struck out 16 batters against Utah Valley, the most by a Matador since 2003
- Rayne Raven was named the Big West Player of the Week/Collegiate Baseball Newspaper Player of the Week on February 14

**Softball:**

- As of April 20, the Matadors are 37-10 overall and 12-0 in the Big West Conference
- The Matadors are off to their best start to conference play in the program's Division I era
- The 37 wins are the most by a CSUN team since the 1998 team went 37-19
- Freshman Zoe Conley was named one of 25 Finalists for NFCA National Freshman of the Year and has won Big West Pitcher of the Week three times
- Sophomore Taylor Glover has already set program Division I record for career stolen bases and stolen bases in a single season

**Tennis:**

- The Matadors finish the regular season at 14-5 overall and 5-3 in Big West play (fourth)
- The Matadors have picked up notable victories over nationally-ranked squads Dartmouth and UC Irvine
- As of April 14, the team is ranked No. 74 in the nation (out of 300 Division I programs)
- Senior Criss Rodriguez was named Big West Tennis Player of the Week after helping lead CSUN to league victories over Cal Poly and UCI
- The Matadors play in the Big West Tournament Quarterfinals April 24, 2015.

**Men's Golf:**

- The Matadors play in the Big West Championship beginning Sunday, Apr. 26
- CSUN posted one top five finish and a pair of top 10 finishes so far in 2015
- Senior Michael O'Connor carries a team-leading 74.6 scoring average in the conference championship
- O'Connor and fellow senior Steven Molumby both had third-place tournament finishes during the season
- Freshman Joey Varnam finished eighth at the UCSB Intercollegiate, his first top 10 finish

**Women's Golf:**

- The Matadors are currently midway through the 2015 Big West Championship
- Arinda Bhanaraksa and Rebecca Bostrom carried a team-low 78.0 stroke average into the conference championship
- Bostrom was an individual medalist at Cal Poly's Firestone Grill Invitational finishing at two-under 144
- Bhanaraska was the low scorer with a 72 at the CSUN-CSU Bakersfield dual match

**Women's Track and Field:**

- The Matadors finished 13th at the MPSF Indoor Championships
- CSUN had 10 student-athletes named to the MPSF All-Academic Team following the indoor season
- Elizabeth Nelson ran the third-fastest time in the indoor 5,000 meters at the MPSF Championships
- Monique Griffiths set the CSUN record in the hammer with a throw of 200-6 at the UCR Spring Classic

**Men's Track and Field:**

- The Matadors finished 14th at the MPSF Indoor Championships
- CSUN had five student-athletes named to the MPSF All-Academic Team following the indoor season
- Zouhry broke CSUN's indoor record in the mile (which had stood since 1992) twice during the indoor season

- Anass Zouhry broke the San Francisco State Distance Carnival record in the 1,500 meters after running 3:45.13 during the outdoor season

**Women's Water Polo:**

- CSUN finished the regular season at 14-10 overall record and 3-2 in Big West Conference play
- The Matadors have earned a 2<sup>nd</sup>-place seed in the Big West Conference Championship tournament, which begins April 24
- This season, CSUN defeated several nationally-ranked opponents: Hartwick, UC Davis, San Jose State, Hawai'i, San Diego, Long Beach State and UC Santa Barbara
- Kiernan Davis was named the Big West Player of the Week on February 25
- Kiernan Davis received the Dick Enberg Post-Graduate Scholarship
- Kiernan Davis finishes her career tied for second-place all-time in CSUN history with 763 career saves