



Date: 8/3/20

Subject: Athletics Update

Everyone:

On Monday, July 13, 2020 the NJCAA voted to adjust the schedule for the 2020-2021 athletics. The action plan would push the competitive soccer and volleyball seasons to spring 2021, while cross country would remain in fall 2020. I have been working with Mike Carter, Jr Perdue, April Higson, Sarah Hensley, Chris Ruppenkamp, and Dave Blubaugh. We have analyzed our budget, transportation, staffing, scheduling, and various other essential pieces and have come to the following conclusions.

ACM has cancelled the fall 2020 Cross Country season. Even though this is a lower risk sport we still believe the risk is too high for our student-athletes. The tight proximity that comes with specific races, courses, and competitiveness lead us to believe that canceling and waiting until the 2021 season is our best course of action.

ACM has cancelled the spring soccer and volleyball seasons. Even though the move to spring helps deal with our concerns about COVID-19, the move puts immense strain on our resources. During the spring semester, with only four sports (men's and women's basketball, baseball, and softball), we are at our performance limit. We will not have the ability to adequately support soccer and volleyball. Due to this we believe that canceling these sports for the 2020-2021 academic year and re-establishing them in the 2021-2022 academic year is the appropriate course of action.

ACM is set to participate in men's and women's basketball, baseball, and softball following the NJCAA guidelines. We appreciate your guidance and support through these trying times. We believe that athletics are essential to the full growth of our students and it is heartbreaking that not all programs will be operating this year.

The unfortunate circumstances of COVID-19 has created multiple challenges that must be met head on daily. These tough times have led us to a point where we must regroup and reevaluate for the 2020-2021 academic year with a revised strategic plan. Athletics are an essential part of our College's experience. I believe that this revised plan allows us, to not only, compete in fewer sports in 2020-2021 but allows us to move forward at full strength in 2021-2022.

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