

UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 13, 2022
Lane Stadium, Fifth Floor (Media)
Virtual Access Provided

Members Present: Whit Babcock, Erin Carleton, Alexander Efird, John Galbraith, Heather Gumbert, Rachel Holloway, Leanna House, Jen Irish, David Crofts for Ken Miller, Phil Miskovic, Jim Petrine, Liesel Ritchie, Bridget Ryan-Berman, Susan Short, Becki Smith, David Tegarden, Joe Tront, Brad Wurthman

Absent: Travis Burns, Allison Bowersock, Frances Keene, Jayden Payoute, Robin Russell, Robin Queen, Ken Stiles

Guests: Sarah Armstrong, Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, Craig Weaver, Danny White, Natalie Wimmer

Susan Short called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of September 15, 2022

Susan Short noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the Web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu>).

3. Guest Presentation: Student-Athlete Development – Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, senior associate athletics director for Inclusive Excellence and Alumni Engagement, and Natalie Wimmer, assistant athletic director, student-athlete development, provided an overview of their roles and programming initiatives. These include Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, responsibilities as senior woman administrator, student conduct, and personal student-athlete development (slide deck attached). Reyna specifically addressed priorities established by the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) as well as Policy 1035 which addressed student-athlete conduct. Student-athletes are subject to random drug testing.

4. Faculty Athletics Representative Update - Jen Irish, university FAR, presented information from the Missed Class Policy subcommittee (materials attached). A recommendation and clarification of approval process will be presented to UAC members during the November 10th UAC meeting.

Missed class subcommittee:

- Charge: Review and update Virginia Tech's missed class policy for student-athletes for UAC review and approval.

- Members: John Galbraith, Derek Gwinn, Jen Irish, Robin Queen.

An additional conversation focused on process/approvals for “excused absences.”

5. Athletic Director Update –Whit Babcock and provided updates on the following topics:

- Legal impacts related to cost of attendance, transfer portal, 3rd party agents, and legalized gambling
- A new NCAA constitution will exist
- Financial pressures continue to be amplified (in the past, \$11M existed to support scholarships. Today that number is \$20M.)
- A number of impacts create strains on-campus (e.g., transfer numbers, mental health systems, fan behavior).
- Current athletic budget is \$110M
- Athletics continue to add significant value to Virginia Tech and southwest Virginia (10 years ago an economic study indicated a \$70M return to the region; contribute significantly to the number of underrepresented students).
- Still focused on moving the needle from a *Challenger Brand* to a *Championship Brand*

6. Susan reminded the group that we will meet virtually on Thursday, November 10th for our next UAC gathering. The virtual link will be provided in the near future. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

2022-23 University Athletics Committee Meeting Schedule

Thursday, **November 10th – 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.** (Virtual Only)

Thursday, **December 8th – 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** (In-person, location: TBD)

Thursday, **January 19th – 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** (Virtual Only)

Thursday, **February 9th – 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** (Virtual Only)

Thursday, **March 16th – 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** (In-person, location: TBD)

Thursday, **April 13th – 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** (Virtual Only)

Thursday, **May 4th, – 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** (In-person, location: TBD)

JOINT ACC PRIORITIES

1

CONFERENCE BRAND

Conference office relocation to Charlotte

2

TELLING THE ACC STUDENT-ATHLETE STORY

ACC Educational Campaign

3

ENHANCING THE STUDENT-ATHLETE VOICE

Student-athlete advisory groups

4

EQUITY & INCLUSION

Title IX 50th Anniversary

ACC CORE

(DRAFT)

ACC PRIORITIES

1

CONFERENCE BRAND

Conference office relocation to Charlotte

NEW LOCATION,
NEW OPPORTUNITIES



ACC PRIORITIES

2

TELLING THE ACC STUDENT-ATHLETE STORY

PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

- Data used to identify and quantify benefits and outcomes for ACC student-athletes

"AFTER THE WHISTLE" SERIES

- Spotlight personal success stories of ACC student-athletes

GRADUATION PATCHES

- Highlights academic success of student-athletes



ACC PRIORITIES

3

ENHANCING THE STUDENT-ATHLETE VOICE

STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY GROUP

- Enhance opportunities for student-athletes to be more active in ACC and NCAA issues with sport



ACC PRIORITIES

4

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION



EQUITY IMPACT

- Priority when making decisions across sports

TITLE IX 50TH ANNIVERSARY

- ACC/BIG10/PAC12 Alliance "Celebrating 50 Years TogetHER"

ACC CORE

- ACC Unity Weeks
- Civic Engagement
- Social & Racial Justice
- ACC Unity Tour

POLICY 1035: STUDENT-ATHLETE CONDUCT

Misdemeanor Charge and/or Conviction

Any student-athlete who is arrested, charged and/or convicted of a misdemeanor charge (other than gambling or game fixing which are addressed above and other than minor traffic infractions) will be subject to a review process.

Felony Charge

Any student-athlete arrested and charged with a felony, or with a crime involving gambling or game fixing under Virginia law or any other jurisdictional equivalent, shall be suspended automatically, by the Director of Athletics, from practice and playing privileges until the charges are dropped, dismissed or otherwise resolved.

Felony Conviction

Any student-athlete convicted of or pleading guilty or no contest to a felony charge or a game fixing charge under Virginia law or any other jurisdictional equivalent shall be permanently dismissed from the team by the Director of Athletics.

Appeals Procedure

Any student-athlete sanctioned under these procedures may appeal within five working days, writing, to the Director of Athletics. In the event of an appeal, a review committee shall consider all factors, including any extenuating circumstances. The student-athlete may appear personally before the committee, with or without a representative of her/his own choosing from the members of the university community.

Missed Class Policy Subcommittee

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Missed Class Policy Subcommittee: Charge & Proposed Topics

Members: Gwinn (co-chair), Irish (co-chair), Galbraith, Queen

Charge: Review and update Virginia Tech's missed class policy for student-athletes for UAC review and approval.

Missed Class Policy Subcommittee: Charge & Proposed Topics

Missed class for competition and related travel

- Absences associated with university-sanctioned events. **Ten of 15 (67%) ACC institutions define university-sanctioned events as excused absences.**
- Faculty and student expectations for make-up work associated with university-sanctioned-event absences. **Seven of 15 (47%) ACC institutions provide such clarification.**
- Maximum allowable absences for university-sanctioned activities.
- Process for review of competition and travel schedules as it relates to missed classes.

Missed Class Policy Subcommittee: Subcommittee Recommendations

For UAC Discussion/Endorsement

- **Pursue a change to university policy to classify absences** for athletics competition and related travel **among those listed for absence verification advocacy**.
- **Set the maximum percent of allowable absences** for student-athlete competition and related travel **to 17%** in any given semester, for example:
 - 7 class periods for a 3-cr MWF class.
 - 5 class periods for a 3-cr TR class.

Missed Class Potential

Tier 1:

- Women's Softball
- Women's Lacrosse
- Women's Tennis
- Men's Baseball
- M&W Track & Field

Sport (Semester)	10-11% [5 MWF, 3 TR] (VT current, aligns w/ BC)	13-14% [6 MWF, 4 TR] (Wake Forest)	15-17% [7 MWF, 5 TR*] (UNC)	<=20% [9 MWF, 6 TR] (UVA School of Education)
MBS (S)	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds
MBB (S)	Exceeds, 7pm MWF	Meets	Meets	Meets
MCC (F)	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	Meets
MGO (F)	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	Meets
& MGO (S)	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	Meets
MTR (S)	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds
MSO (F)	Exceeds	Exceeds, 2pm & later TR	Exceeds, 3pm & later TR	Exceeds, 3pm & later TR
MSW (S)	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
MTN (S)	Exceeds	Exceeds, 12pm & later MWF	Exceeds, 12pm & later MWF	Exceeds, 12pm & later MWF
WSB (S)	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds
WBB (S)	Exceeds	Exceeds, 3pm & later TR	Exceeds, 4pm & later TR	Exceeds, 4pm & later TR
WCC (F)	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	Meets
WGO (F)	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	Meets

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& WGO (S)	Exceeds	Exceeds, 12pm & later MWF	Meets	Meets
WTR (S)	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds
WLC	Exceeds	Exceeds MWF	Exceeds MWF	Exceeds
WSO (F)	Exceeds, 4pm & later TR	Exceeds, 5pm & later TR	Exceeds, 6pm & later TR	Exceeds, 6pm & later TR
WSW (S)	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
WTN (F)	Exceeds	Meets	Meets	Meets
& WTN (S)	Exceeds	Exceeds MWF	Exceeds MWF	Exceeds MWF, 1pm MWF
WVB (F)**	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds, 12pm & later MWF	Meets

Team GPA Trends - Fall

Team GPA Trends - Spring

Summary of Missed Class Data for AY 2022

Missed class data for AY 2022, namely Fall 2021 and Spring 2022, were analyzed to estimate the *maximum possible* missed classes per sport per hour per semester (results by sport and semester are available [here](#)). Considering 3-credit courses are the most common type of course, Fall and Spring summary results are shown in the [figures](#) below per sport per hour, summed over Monday-Wednesday-Friday (Fridays after 1 pm excluded; see [Key assumptions and caveats](#)) or Tuesday-Thursday. In all figures, a three-character sport abbreviation is used, e.g., MBB is Men’s Basketball and WSB is Women’s Softball. Hours shown are the start hour.

Virginia Tech’s current missed class policy states that the maximum number of missed classes must not exceed 9 class days per semester, with no more than two consecutive class days missed in any one month. For the purposes of this discussion, this is interpreted to mean no more than 5 contact hours (50-min) may be missed for a 3-credit course—translating to 5 meetings (11%, 750 minutes per credit-hour assumed) if a MWF class or 3 meetings (10%) if a TR class. ACC peer-institution policies vary from limits similar to Virginia Tech’s current limits to more than 20%.

The [table](#) below shows those sports potentially exceeding Virginia Tech’s current policy versus various possible policies. Those sports who consistently exceed various possible policies are highlighted in yellow. When interpreting the [table](#), it is important to note that (1) student-athletes may already not schedule classes in the high-miss hours indicated, and (2) in some sports, e.g., Track & Field, different parts of the team report/travel at different times. With this in mind, **Women’s Softball, Women’s Lacrosse, Women’s Tennis, and Men’s Baseball appear to be the sports most likely to present challenges for student-athletes with respect to course scheduling and missed class.**

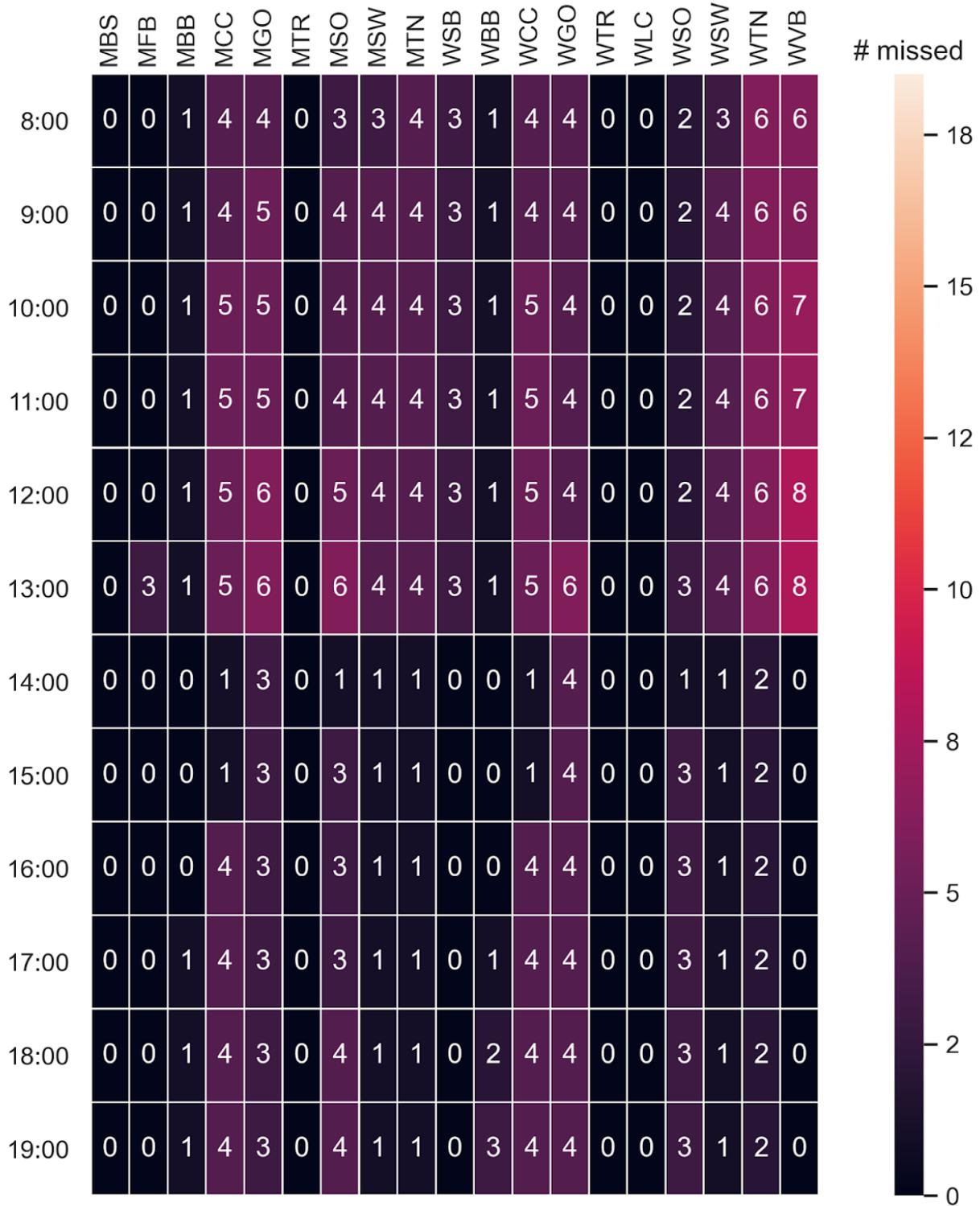
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WVB (F)**	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds, 12pm & later MWF	Meets

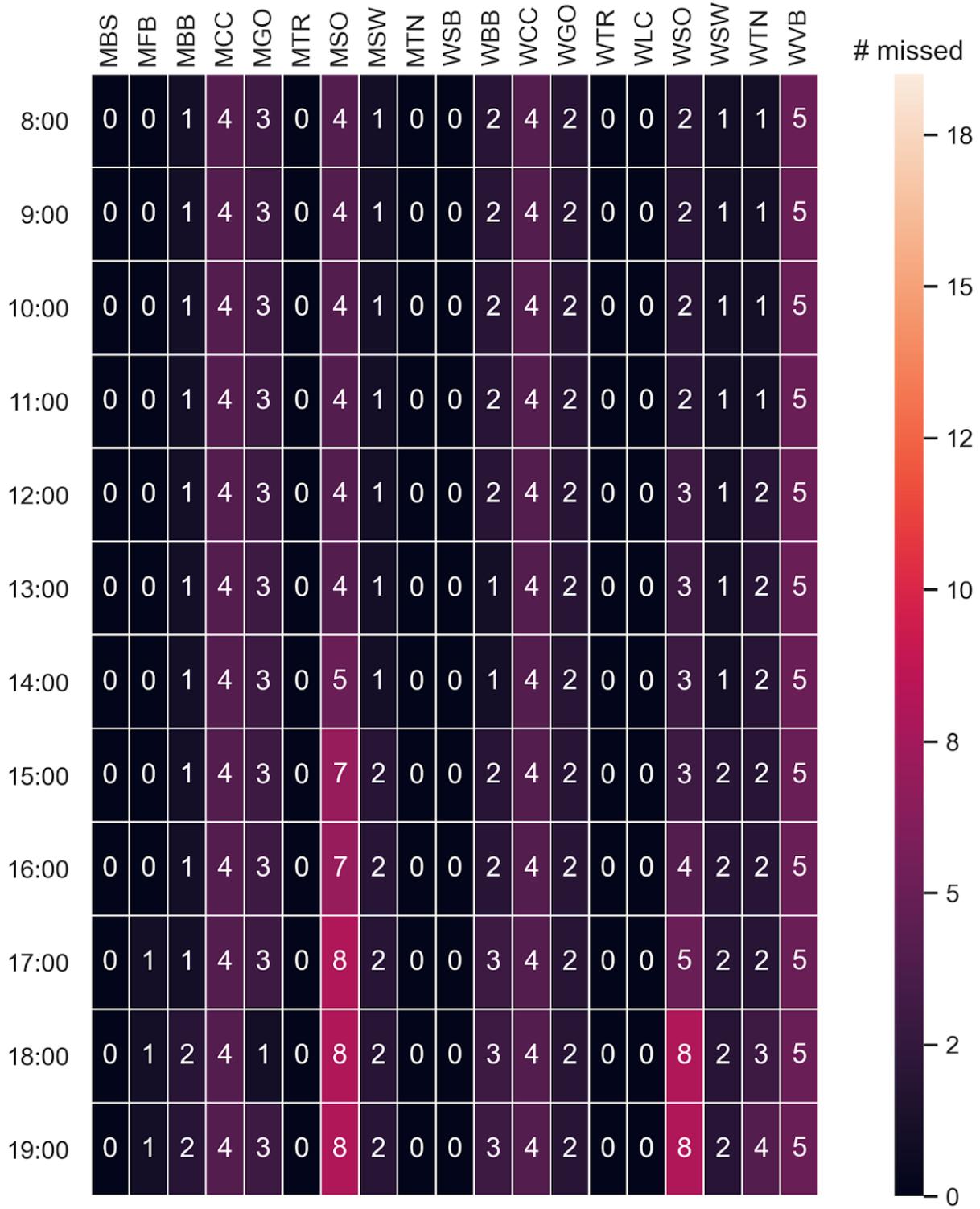
*UNC states 7 classes regardless of MWF or TR

**Departure times not provided, assumed at start of departure day

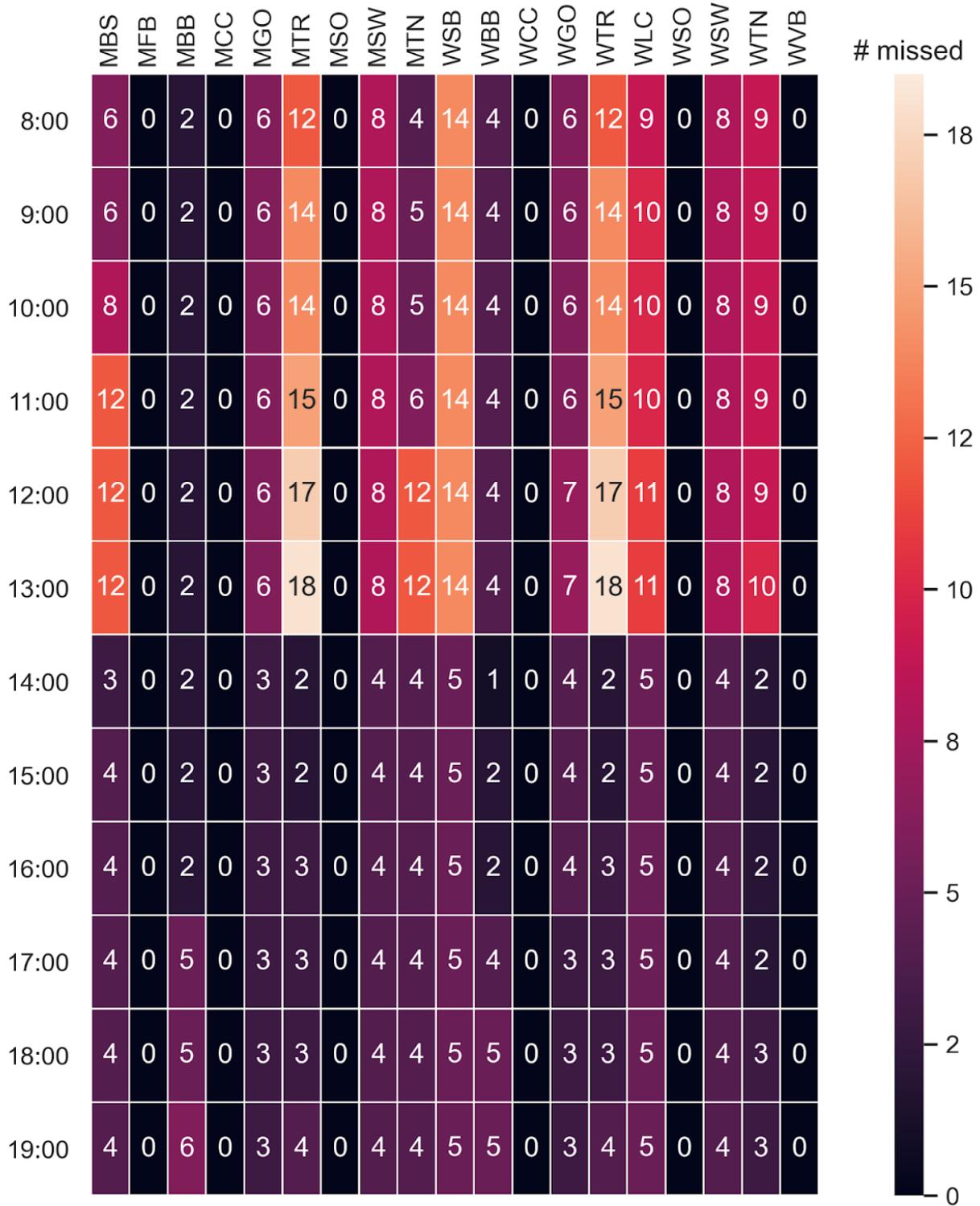
Fall - MW+(8-1)F



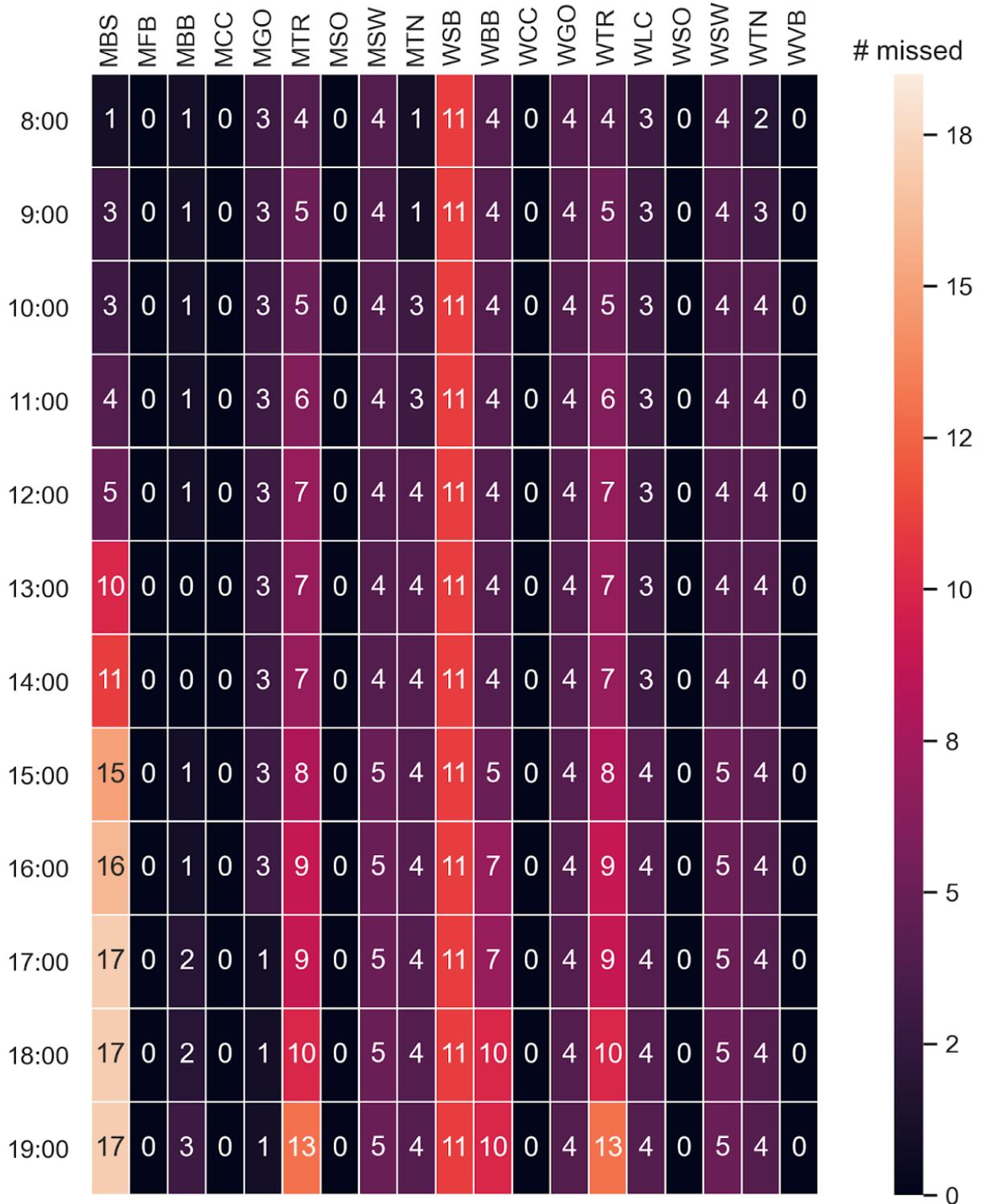
Fall - TR



Spring - MW+(8-1)F



Spring - TR



Key assumptions and caveats

- All analyses based on [this spreadsheet](#), provided by the Athletics Department/Compliance in April 2022.
- When departure/start times were missing, departure/start time assumed to be at the beginning of the day.
- When return times were missing and for all home events, end/return time assumed to be at the end of the day.
- Missed times on Fridays after 1 pm were omitted from the MWF count totals since there are few (if any?) 3-day-a-week classes offered after 1 pm on Fridays.
- Inconsistent formatting and missed data likely results in some error in counts shown. But, it is anticipated that trends shown are consistent with actual trends.