

Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Meeting

Director's Conference Room - Casanova Center

February 15, 2006

Committee Members and Guests Present: Renee Baumgartner, Mark Blaine, Kenny Gates, Gary Gray, Julie Haack, Jim Isenberg, Tom Larson, Michael Moffitt, Bill Moos, Jim O'Fallon, Eric Pickard, George Rowe, Jim Schombert, Ed Singer, Nathan Tublitz, Whitney Wagoner, and Debbie Nankivell.

Sports Marketing Article

Nathan distributed copies of an article co-authored by Dennis Howard, professor of marketing at the Warsaw Sports Marketing Center. The 2004 article examines the behavior of major donors and their patterns of contributing to athletics and/or other areas of the institution.

GSR/Federal Reporting Update

Gary distributed an updated NCAA graduation rate report which includes the new Graduation Success Rate (GSR) figures.

The GSR is the only report that tracks student-athletes who transfer in or out of the institution during the period being monitored and does not compare student-athletes with members of the general student body. The GSR tracks four classes using a rolling rate which helps when dealing with sports with fewer student-athletes where small changes in numbers can appear to be quite drastic. The UO is probably in compliance with the GSR requirements at this time. The only sport that may be below the cut line is football, and not by very much.

The APR (Academic Progress Rate) looks at student-athletes' academic progress toward earning a degree on a term-by-term basis rather than once per year. In the future, the APR will be calculated on a four year rolling basis. Penalties could be assessed if the APR of a particular team is below the cut line. We have traditionally lost points at the end of student-athletes' eligibility when they have chosen to focus on their professional careers, rather than academics. A new rule has been instituted requiring all student-athletes to earn a minimum of six credits in their final term in order to participate in post-season competitions.

A number of factors need to be addressed to ensure that our teams' rates do not fall below the NCAA minimum rates. These factors include athletics staff taking a closer look at prospective student-athlete test scores and grades, the effectiveness of academic support systems, as well as the character and commitment to academics of potential recruits.

Also discussed the seemingly large number of non-resident alien student-athletes in some programs, primarily tennis, golf, track, and women's basketball. The number is reflective of Division I institutions throughout the country.

The committee expressed some concern about institutions figuring out how to misrepresent data to skew the GSR and APRs in their favor. There are also concerns that the measuring tools used to calculate the GSR and APR's may not be accurate predictors in determining student-athletes' academic success.

COIA Update

Nathan reported that COIA members continue to meet with NCAA leadership on a number of topics of interest to both organizations. A presidential task force has been created to develop a blueprint for how the NCAA should be managed. Nathan will send committee members the NCAA website location listing 25-30 issues to be addressed by the presidential task force. Committee members agreed that the IAC should weigh in on particular issues of interest at the UO.

Role of the Faculty Athletics Representative

Discussed the time commitment and training required for the university's FAR position. Jim stated that his FAR responsibilities account for .50 FTE of his appointment. There are several times during the year that are very hectic, especially in fall. The FAR reviews each team's eligibility once a year as well as on a term-by-term basis, including GPA's. In addition, the FAR serves on the Pac-10 Council and votes on legislation. The president appoints the FAR.

There is a steep learning curve in understanding and interpreting the NCAA rules. It is imperative that the rules be interpreted correctly to avoid penalties to the student-athlete, the sport, and the university. Adding to the complexity are two sets of NCAA eligibility rules that currently apply to student-athletes based on when they were first enrolled.

Because Jim will likely retire in a few years, the committee feels it is important to develop a recommendation to President Frohnmayer on how best to manage the transition to a new FAR. Committee members were encouraged to send comments or suggestions for a FAR transition plan to Jim Isenberg.

2006 Civil War Football Game

Bill informed the committee that the 2006 Civil War football game will be played on the Saturday (or possibly the Friday) of Thanksgiving week in Corvallis. The coaches prefer playing on Thanksgiving weekend so they can concentrate their efforts on recruiting during the first week of December.

Next IAC Meeting

The next IAC meeting has been scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5, 2006 in the Johnson Hall Conference Room.

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