

## **Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Meeting**

Johnson Hall Conference Room

December 13, 2006

**Committee Members and Guests Present:** Renee Baumgratner, Mark Blaine, Roland Ford, Dave Frohnmayer (by telephone), Gary Gray, Melinda Grier, Julie Haack, Jim Isenberg, Tom Larson, Michael Moffitt, Bill Moos, Allan Price, Ed Singer, Nathan Tublitz, Paul van Donkelaar, Whitney Wagoner, Anita Weiss, Dan Williams, and Debbie Nankivell.

### **Academic Learning Center and Arena Projects**

Allan Price and Dave Frohnmayer (by phone) updated the committee about the status of discussions regarding projects to replace the current Support Services for Student-athletes office and Mac Court. The original arena project plans included an academic center for student-athletes. When the arena project was put on hold, a philanthropic offer to move forward with the academic learning center portion of the project was received. The donor's representative has been looking into possible sites, focusing on the corner of Franklin & Agate, which had been earmarked for the university's new alumni center. There appears to be room for both projects on the site. At the time of the meeting, no decision had been made on whether to proceed with the academic learning center project, however, active communications were continuing to take place. The Franklin & Agate site is a gateway to campus and the academic learning center would be used by student-athletes with some areas of the facility available to campus groups.

Some members of the committee voiced the following concerns about the prospect of a new academic learning center for student-athletes:

\$ A new, upscale facility for student-athletes gives the appearance that the academic needs of the general student body are not as important. Dave Frohnmayer stated that the current Support Services for Student-athletes' offices are clearly substandard and improvements have been a priority for a long time. There have also been discussions about the possibility of consolidating other offices on campus which would improve the UO's academic support facilities for all university students.

\$ A separate facility for a small population of the university's students further isolates the student-athletes when one of the NCAA's goals is to integrate student-athletes into the university community. Dave stated that the current UO model for providing academic support to student-athletes is separate and very successful, but its facilities are not equal to that of the general student body. The new facility would also have areas available for campus groups.

\$ The perception seems to be that the university has to agree to whatever donors want or offers will be revoked. Many faculty members feel it is important to be involved in discussions regarding building projects. Dave stated that the discussions just recently moved to this stage and he wanted the IAC to be aware of the situation. Dave will keep faculty and the public updated on the status of the project.

\$ There were also concerns about the cost for the project which is unclear at this time. There is no cost estimate yet for the project.

### **Athletic Director Search**

Allan Price, Dan Williams, Melinda Grier, and Michael Moffitt have been assigned the task of developing options to assist Dave in planning the best approach for hiring the next Athletic Director. The job is very desirable and Dave wants to be inclusive, yet expedient in filling the position. The three main options are:

\$ Making an interim appointment;

\$ Hiring an internal candidate; or

§           Conducting a national search.

The process will likely include a handful of people on the search committee, helping to identify qualified candidates. Searches for athletic directors are quite different than for most other university positions. Most top notch candidates are not in the market for another job and need to be very cautious about publicly stating their interest in another institution. Dave plans to keep campus groups up-to-date on the search process.

Committee members expressed their disappointment in Bill's resignation and their desire to ensure that his replacement shares a commitment to the importance of academics and continues the tradition of listening to faculty concerns regarding athletics issues. Committee members also feel it is very important to have faculty involvement in the search process. Dave stated that he is welcoming input from all interested parties to help as he moves forward in hiring Bill's replacement.

**Special Admit Discussions**

A sub-committee of the IAC has had meetings to determine which data should be gathered to better understand the history of student-athlete special admits to the university. The group hopes to be prepared to discuss special admits at the next IAC meeting.

**Next IAC Meeting**

The next IAC meeting has been scheduled for 3:30-5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2007 in the Director's Conference Room at the Casanova Center.

dln