

Intercollegiate Athletic Committee Meeting

Pittman Room, Casanova Center

October 18, 1995

Committee Members and Guests Present Ralph Barnhard, Jim Isenberg, Larry Neal, Jim O'Fallon, Lou Osternig, Don Peting, Bill Moos, Barbara Walker, Karen Nelson, Bill Washburn, Susan Trafton, and Debbie Nankivell. The committee members and guests introduced themselves.

Athletic Department Overview

Bill Moos presented a general overview of the Athletic Department. All UO teams have had great starts so far this fall. We have outstanding coaches, staff, and student-athletes with clean, competitive programs. Budget projections have been exceeded due to increased attendance and TV revenue.

\$1.3 million is going toward improvements to McArthur Court, beginning with the academic counseling offices. The improved facilities assist in recruitment of student-athletes. Eventually, we will need a new facility, but will continue to use Mac Court so the improvements we are making now will not be wasted. Engineers are currently conducting a study on the long term use of Mac Court. Plans are also underway to add one more academic counselor to the Mac Court staff.

The search for a Head Women's Soccer Coach closes on November 30th. Requirements include a degree, collegiate coaching experience, and experience working with NCAA rules and regulations. The first games for the soccer team will be in the fall of 1996, with a team of 20-24 players. Practice and playing field options continue to be investigated. Adding a women's sport to the program helps the University in its goal of meeting Title IX gender equity requirements.

Discussed the Director of Varsity Tennis search which was conducted over the summer. Buzz Summers retired and the program was upgraded and fully funded with grant-in-aid. Chris Russell, the new Director of Varsity Tennis, will oversee both the men's and women's programs with Wade Judy, Assistant Director, also working with both teams. Chris was highly qualified with Division I experience coaching men's and women's programs.

Some of the challenges being addressed by the Athletic Department include continuing to make progress toward gender equity, scheduling practice times for student-athletes at Mac Court, continuing to take advantage of the current momentum of gift giving, and continuing to recruit and graduate student-athletes.

SOAR Program

Karen Nelson addressed the group to explain the SOAR Program which was a pilot of the NCAA's Life Skills Program last year. SOAR stands for scholastic excellence, outstanding character, athletic achievement, and responsibility to self and others. An advisory board meets twice a month to address marketing the program and funding issues.

The program includes a mandatory class for all freshman student-athletes which deals with transition issues and personal responsibility. Guest speakers from the university and community also address the students.

Karen also coordinates the Adopt-A-Duck program which creates a family connection for student-athletes in the community. All student-athletes interested in participating are paired with families who have agreed to follow required NCAA regulations.

A monthly newsletter is sent to all student-athletes and seminars and support groups are scheduled throughout the year. Jim Bartko is in the process of working with businesses to coordinate internships and summer jobs for student-athletes.

All freshman student-athletes are required to participate in service to the community. The ALARM Program, Athletes Living as Role Models, has been created for this purpose. Currently, student-athletes are working with the PALS program.

An advisory committee called the CARE Team has been formed to be prepared to offer assistance to team and staff members in the event of a crisis.

The SOAR Program is currently funded by the Athletic Department with the hope of adding corporate funding in the future.

NCAA Convention Issues

Decisions will be made prior to the January NCAA Convention on the University's position regarding pending legislation. Barbara Walker has outlined the legislation and copies will be forwarded to committee members for review prior to the next IAC meeting.

Issues to be addressed at the upcoming NCAA Convention include restructuring the NCAA governance to a more corporate model, minor academic requirement changes, and discussions involving salaries of restricted earning coaches.

The Athletic Department and IAC Committee will both be actively involved in an 18-month NCAA accreditation self-study process beginning later this year. More information will follow in the next month or two.

Next Meeting

The next IAC meeting will be held on Monday, November 13th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the EMU board room. Agenda items for future meetings include scheduling Dan Williams to speak to the group, having Herb Yamanaka explain current UO fund-raising efforts, a tour of the facilities, and the NCAA convention.

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