

## **Intercollegiate Athletic Committee Meeting**

Klamath Hall, Room 151

November 19, 1996

**Committee Members and Guests Present:** Ralph Barnhard, Mike Benz, Dusty Carlson, Herb Chereck, Gary Gray, Corey Johnson, Ken Kempner, Steve Kevan, John Leahy, Kelli McCartan, Karen Nelson, Marilyn Nippold, Jim O'Fallon, Kanealii Osorio, Susan Trafton, Barbara Walker, Dan Wojcik, and Debbie Nankivell.

### **SOAR Program Update**

Karen Nelson distributed copies of the freshman SOAR class curriculum and updated the committee on the changes made in the program this fall. This is the second year of classes which are mandatory for all freshman student-athletes. Some course requirements have been changed this year and the classes are now non-graded. The classes have been very successful and feedback from the student-athletes has been positive.

The ALARM program is a part of the SOAR program where student-athletes are assigned to 4th grade classrooms throughout the Eugene/Springfield area. The student-athletes will visit their assigned classrooms at least twice a year, once to introduce themselves and on the second visit, to talk to the students on a specific topic requested by the teacher. Birthday cards will go out to the students from the student-athletes to help maintain the year-long contact with the classroom.

### **Graduation Rates**

Copies of the NCAA 1996 Graduation Rates Report were distributed. All recruits are required to receive copies of this annual report and use the reports to compare universities recruiting them. Discussed the data included in the report which is generated by the registrar's office. Additional reports tracking retention and graduation rates, as well as degrees by major were distributed. Herb Chereck explained the information compiled in these reports.

### **Academic Liaison**

Discussed whether to have a committee member serve as a liaison between the department and faculty regarding concerns about student-athletes' academic progress. Since some sub-committee members were not involved in initial discussions of this issue, members of the sub-committee met with Coach Green recently to learn first-hand about the program's needs.

Coach Green reiterated that many of the team members require substantial support and he would like to see assistance in two areas.

- 1) Faculty members serving as mentors to student-athletes.
- 2) Gaining the assistance of faculty members willing to inform coaching staff when student-athletes are not attending or are performing inadequately in their classes.

Often coaches are not aware of problems until it is too late to correct them.

A lengthy discussion ensued with a number of concerns raised. The issues included:

- 1) Whether services to handle student-athlete problems are already in place and if so, whether they are working to everyone's satisfaction.
- 2) Whether similar programs are in place on campus for the general student body and if so, whether student-athletes could tap into these services.
- 3) Whether it is appropriate to expect faculty to notify coaches of student-athletes' progress more often than they report on the progress of other students.
- 4) Whether committee members feel comfortable asking faculty members to identify student-athletes' with performance/attendance problems when faculty know the student-athletes will most likely be disciplined by being assigned tedious drills in an effort to change the poor behaviors.
- 5) Whether the current early warning system (forms) can be revised to be more effective.
- 6) Whether student-athletes with poor academic records should be recruited to the UO.

It was agreed that this issue needs to be discussed again at the next meeting and a decision made on whether to proceed with pursuing an academic liaison link between the department and faculty. Input from Gary Gray and Dwight Lewis would be beneficial during this decision process.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be scheduled for late January.

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