

Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Meeting

Johnson Hall Conference Room

January 26, 2005

Committee Members and Guests Present: Dave Heeke, Jim Isenberg, Stan Jones, Brian Klopotek, Anna Leksinska, Rick Mowday, Jim O'Fallon, George Rowe, Jim Schombert, Nathan Tublitz, and Debbie Nankivell.

Offensive Mascot Issue

The committee discussed how to proceed in dealing with the recent objections raised by members of the UO's Native American Student Union (NASU) and some faculty members regarding the scheduling of men's basketball games with the University of Illinois. Brian Klopotek, Assistant Professor in the Ethnic Studies Program and Department of Anthropology, distributed copies of a packet of information from the NASU regarding Native American and racist mascots.

Professor Klopotek explained that Native American mascots create negative stereotypes which are harmful to all people, not only Native Americans, and perpetuate racist behavior. Representatives of the NASU have met with members of the UO's administration several times over the past few months to voice their concerns that scheduling competitions with institutions who have Native American mascots goes against the UO's affirmative action and anti-discrimination policies. The NASU is now asking the university to develop a written policy (without loopholes) that clearly states that the UO will not compete against any institution with a Native American mascot. A list of the institutions with Native American mascots was included in the NASU materials.

Situations were discussed that could make banning competitions against teams from the identified institutions very difficult to manage, such as post-season competitions, tournaments, and hosting NCAA events in Eugene. Not competing against these institutions could jeopardize the university's membership in the Pac-10 Conference and the NCAA.

The committee requested information on the instances where UO teams have competed against institutions with Native American mascots over the past few years. This data is to be provided prior to the next meeting and is intended to help committee members understand how much the UO could be affected by enacting a policy not to compete against the identified institutions.

Upcoming Meeting

Another special meeting of the IAC members has been scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 16, 2005 to discuss how the committee wants to proceed regarding this issue. The location of this meeting will be announced soon.

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