

Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Meeting

Director's Conference Room, Casanova Center

February 2, 2000

Committee Members and Guests Present: Dan Close, J.R. Fitzpatrick, Rick Gamez, Hilary Gerdes, Gary Gray, Lynn Kahle, John Leahy, Jennifer Levy, Jim Mohr, Bill Moos, Jim O'Fallon, Brad Shelton, Larry Singell, Heidi Smith, Steve Stolp, and Debbie Nankivell.

UO Town Hall Meeting Update

Recapped discussions regarding athletics that occurred at the recent UO Town Hall meeting. Some faculty members continue to have concerns about how athletics fits into the university's mission. It appears that getting more accurate information out about athletics and the Autzen expansion project has helped in clarifying funding issues. The Athletic Department recently contributed \$200,000 toward the faculty enhancement pool. Revenue resulting from the expansion of Autzen is not expected until after the project has been completed.

Sun Bowl Update

The Sun Bowl financial report is not yet completed, however, the department expects to break even or make a small profit, which is a welcome change after participating in last year's Aloha Bowl. This year's attendance was the sixth highest in Sun Bowl history and the exciting game attracted a large TV audience. The Duck victory and Top 20 finish undoubtedly helped make this year's recruiting class one of the best ever for Oregon.

Softball Program Update

Rick Gamez, head softball coach, discussed the university's softball program. The Pac-10 Conference is the toughest league in the country with all eight teams in post-season competition and five teams playing in the College World Series last year. Coach Gamez and his assistant coaching staff have rebuilt the program and recruited great student-athletes, culminating in post-season play the past two seasons, just missing the opportunity to compete in the College World Series last season.

Coach Gamez feels that his program is one of the biggest beneficiaries of the Moshofsky Center. His team can now practice despite the weather, which has definitely affected the success of the program. His team works very hard on the field, in the classroom and in the community. They are very disciplined and work well as a unit.

Softball is an equivalency sport with twelve scholarships. The team currently has 21 student-athletes on the roster, the majority on some form of financial aid. The softball staff recruits during the summer months, primarily on the west coast and in Arizona. Our softball student-athletes have done very well in the classroom, with all players graduating during Coach Gamez's tenure. It is difficult for the team to travel so extensively and miss classes during the season. The student-athletes know the importance of communicating with their professors and do a good job in that area. Coach Gamez schedules mandatory study hall for the softball student-athletes while on road trips.

The question was asked why softball gets so little media coverage when the team is so successful. Coach Gamez responded that he felt softball gets good local coverage, more than many other successful programs, such as Arizona. The season begins soon and the team will be on the road competing throughout much of February and March, before returning to begin home play at the end of March.

Support Services for Student-Athletes Update

Steve Stolp, director of support services for student-athletes, and Hilary Gerdes, interim director of academic advising and student services, reported on the recent structural changes made in the support services area. Steve currently splits his time between Mac Court and the academic advising offices in Oregon Hall, serving as a liaison between the two areas. Support services for student-athletes falls under the student affairs and academic advising umbrella. The goal of the recent restructuring was to reconnect the Mac Court offices with academic advising, and the larger campus as a whole. Good communication is the key to keeping these groups working well together and clarification of roles within each area will continue to be addressed.

Advisors working with student-athletes are required to have general advising experience as well as knowledge of NCAA rules, which can be quite complicated. Discussed the effectiveness of the current mid-quarterly grade report. Steve will provide copies of the form to committee members who will provide feedback on ways to improve the form and the reporting process.

Scholarship Nominees

Jim O'Fallon informed the committee that two UO student-athletes have been nominated for the Walter Byers Scholarship. Heidi Smith, soccer, and AD Smith, men's basketball, are the nominees for this prestigious scholarship.

Next Meeting

The next Intercollegiate Athletics Committee meeting has now been scheduled for Wednesday, March 29, 2000 at 4:00 p.m. in the Director's Conference Room at the Casanova Center.

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