

Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Meeting

Johnson Hall Conference Room

April 6, 2005

Committee Members and Guests Present: Gary Gray, Dave Heeke, Jim Isenberg, William Kopeikin, Anna Leksinska, Michael Moffitt, Bill Moos, Rick Mowday, Jim O'Fallon, George Rowe, Jim Schombert, Nathan Tublitz, Katie Wallace, and Debbie Nankivell.

Offensive Mascot Issue

Discussed the draft IAC Report on Scheduling Athletic Competition with Institutions Which Have Mascots That Are Offensive to Some Members of the University Community. An additional paragraph will be added to the draft clarifying that committee members feel empathy for the NASU's stance on the issue, but have found it difficult to reach a resolution that meets all parties' needs. The report will be finalized, then forwarded to Dan Williams. A small group of IAC members will schedule a meeting with NASU representatives.

Track & Field Program Update

Bill Moos updated the committee on the status of the UO track and field program following the resignation of Head Coach Martin Smith. In the years prior to the hiring of Coach Smith, the UO track program had lost its luster and not been very successful. Since hiring Coach Smith, the program has improved dramatically, however, as reported in the media, Coach Smith did not have the support of some members of the track community, primarily due to the lack of focus on Oregon's distance program. The track community, which has always been very vocal in expressing their concerns about the program, includes UO track alumni, some of whom are affiliated with Nike, as well as long-time Oregon track fans. The difference in philosophies as well as Coach Smith's history of not embracing the track community helped lead to the unrest. Bill and Coach Smith agreed that Coach Smith's resignation would be the best option for moving the program forward.

The committee expressed concern that it looked like Phil Knight had pressured the department to fire Coach Smith. Bill assured the committee that this was not the case. In fact, the people at Nike were only a handful of the many track alumni and fans who had voiced their displeasure with the direction of the track program. There were also additional issues that led Bill to make the coaching change. A national search is expected to begin in the next few weeks.

COIA Approval

The University Senate approved the COIA document at the March senate meeting. The committee discussed how to proceed now that the COIA document has been approved. The committee agreed to review the document again, then select a couple of issues on which to concentrate. It was suggested that the committee start with some of the easier recommendations or items the UO is already doing. Committee members were encouraged to e-mail each other with the topics they want to focus on.

Faculty Reception

Briefly discussed scheduling a reception for faculty members to meet athletic department staff as a means of improving communications. The committee will consider whether to postpone this reception until next year. In the meantime, the football staff reception for faculty members has been set for 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20th in the Browsing Room of the Knight Library.

Next IAC Meeting

The May IAC meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11th in the director's conference room at the Casanova Center.

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