

Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Meeting

Director's Conference Room - Casanova Center

December 6, 2000

Committee Members and Guests Present: Renee Baumgartner, Dan Close, Jim Earl, Gary Gray, Ken Kempner, Katy Lenn, Jim Mohr, Jim O'Fallon, Jeff Oliver, Janet Rose, Shannon Rouillard, Brad Shelton, Larry Singell, Richard Sundt, and Debbie Nankivell. Bill Moos was unable to attend the meeting as he was in San Diego for the UO's site visit in preparation for the Holiday Bowl.

Women's Golf Program Update

Shannon Rouillard, head women's golf coach, discussed the university's women's golf program. A national search for head coach was conducted last spring when Renee Baumgartner became a full-time associate athletic director and senior women's administrator. Shannon was the unanimous choice for the position. She served as a graduate assistant coach under Coach Baumgartner last season, played golf collegiately at the UO from 1990-95, and also competed at the professional level. In addition to her coaching responsibilities, Shannon is currently working toward her master's degree.

Shannon noted that the women's golf budget has increased considerably since her playing days at Oregon as all programs have benefitted from the recent successes of the department's revenue producing sports.

The golf team has participated in five tournaments so far in 2000/01. The remainder of the season begins on February 1st and runs through the end of May. The team is hopeful that their hard work will lead them to post-season competition. The team currently consists of twelve student-athletes with five individuals traveling to each tournament. Local golf courses have generously allowed the team to use their facilities for practice. Travel to tournaments usually requires leaving on Wednesday and returning on Sunday, keeping missed classes to a minimum.

Academics is just as important to Shannon as the athletic success of her student-athletes. Last year's team finished with a 3.66 team GPA and the importance of graduating, even for the student-athletes who plan to play golf professionally, is stressed by Shannon. Current team members are pursuing business, sociology, psychology, education and general science degrees.

Pac-10 Basketball Tournaments

Discussed the Pac-10 men's and women's basketball tournaments which will begin in 2002. Mac Court has been selected to be the site of the first women's tournament because the Ducks have been Pac-10 champions the past two years, and the popularity of women's basketball in our community will help promote the tournament. The winners of the men's and women's Pac-10 tournaments will automatically qualify as the Pac-10 representatives in the NCAA tournaments. It is hoped that more Pac-10 teams will be included in the NCAA tournament once the Pac-10 tournament is in place.

The women's tournament will have a full ten team bracket, seeded based on final conference

standings. The men's tournament will be comprised of the top eight teams and will take place the week following the women's tournament. All Pac-10 programs will continue to play the other nine Pac-10 institutions twice during the regular season, which will begin a couple of weeks earlier than in the past.

Discussed student-athletes missing additional classes once the Pac-10 tournaments are in place. To facilitate the Pac-10 tournaments, some pre-season games will be eliminated, and the number of missed classes should be about the same as in the past. The NCAA tournament schedule is more of a problem for schools like the UO which are on the quarter system, as finals week normally falls during the competition.

Because a number of UO teams have participated in post-season competition the past few years, the department administration continues to work with its coaching staff to improve planning to ensure that all academic requirements are met while teams are competing on the road.

Intercollegiate Athletics Concerns

Richard Sundt, art history professor, read a statement to the committee about the need to reform college athletics. There are grass root efforts from faculty throughout the country about the need to make education the number one priority at universities. Recommendations for reforming college athletics vary from elimination, reformation, or the franchising of athletic programs.

Discussed the difficulty of changing how intercollegiate athletics operate and the escalating costs involved. Groups addressing these issues include university presidents, conference commissioners, and faculty athletics representatives who are always working on ways to address student-athletes' academic needs. Everyone agrees that it is important to recruit good students, not just good athletes.

Members of the committee have seen improvements made in some areas of concern, primarily academic support, during their tenure with the committee. The committee is expected to continue to offer input to benefit the UO's intercollegiate athletics program and especially, the student-athletes.

Next IAC Meeting

The next IAC meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7th in the director's conference room in the Casanova Center.

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