

Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Meeting

Pittman Room, Casanova Center

December 8, 1999

Committee Members and Guests Present: J.R. Fitzpatrick, Peter Gilkey, Gary Gray, John Leahy, Danny Lopez, Bill Moos, Jim O'Fallon, Margie Paris, Bill Ryan, Brad Shelton, Larry Singell, Heidi Smith, Martin Smith, and Debbie Nankivell.

Men's Track Program Update

Martin Smith, head men's track coach, discussed the university's men's track and cross country programs. Martin introduced Danny Lopez, director of track operations, who accompanied him to the meeting. Martin informed the committee about his background coaching prominent Division I intercollegiate track programs over the past 21 years. He has always been aware of the prestigious track tradition at the University of Oregon and finds it an exciting challenge to be a part of maintaining that tradition. Martin stated that it is important to U.S. track and field for track to flourish at the University of Oregon. Youth track meets, camps, and all-comer meets - which are unique to Eugene - will continue.

The men's cross country team had a great fall season. The team finished 6th at the NCAA championships, with three individual All-Americans, and a 3rd place finish for Steve Fein (also the #1 American). The success of the fall season should help in the recruiting process which is starting now. Men's track is an equivalency sport with a total of 12.6 scholarships. It's very difficult to allocate the scholarships, especially when other institutions have lower tuition costs and easier residency requirements.

Outdoor track is the main focus for Martin and his coaching staff. Tony Veney was hired shortly after Martin's arrival and Bill Lawson was hired last fall to concentrate on the field events. This year's team has a lot of enthusiasm and should carry over their success from the cross country season to the outdoor track season and to the classroom. Classroom success is especially important for track student-athletes since very few continue their track careers by competing at the professional level.

Autzen Stadium Expansion and Renovation

Peter Gilkey, president of the faculty senate, has been inundated with e-mails from faculty about the expansion of Autzen Stadium and attended the meeting to learn more about the project. Bill distributed an Executive Summary & Financial Plan and discussed the rationale for proceeding with the project. President Gilkey distributed copies of recent e-mails he has received from faculty and the administration regarding the project.

The decision was made to proceed after carefully considering long range department budget issues and the need to identify additional sources of revenue as the department moves toward self-sufficiency. Bill stated that he is sensitive to other campus financial issues and decreasing the amount of institutional funds provided to the department will benefit other departments on campus.

A survey was conducted to determine what improvements are necessary to adequately meet the needs of the public using Autzen, including addressing ADA issues. The additional revenues expected to be generated from the project will enable the department to survive as institutional funds decrease and one to two women's sports are added over the next few years to meet Title IX requirements.

The total cost of the project has been set at \$80 million, with \$68 million in private gifts already pledged to the project. The remaining \$12 million will be generated from \$10 million in new seat and sky suite assessments, with the final \$2 million expected to come from ticket price increases and sky suite sales. The university's administration approved proceeding with the project based on the substantial pledges already made, the well thought out plan for securing the remaining funds, and the continuing success of the UO's athletic programs.

President Gilkey will post the Executive Summary & Financial Plan on the faculty webpage to provide factual data to those interested in learning more about the project.

Academic Advising Committee Update

Jim O'Fallon reported that changes have been made in Support Services for Student-Athletes, with Steve Stolpe now overseeing the area rather than Joe Wade. Additional changes include the retirement of one counselor and the resignation of another. This restructuring is expected to improve the services provided to student-athletes.

Student-Athlete Benefits

Heidi Smith forwarded some concerns from fellow students and student-athletes about the possibility that some of the UO's student-athletes may be receiving additional benefits, such as extra per diem money or gear. Bill Moos and Gary Gray explained that the department operates within university, state, federal, and NCAA rules in administering these issues. Awards for post season competition are also permissible and closely monitored by department staff.

Pac-10 Compliance & Enforcement Committee

Bill Moos is now a member of the Pac-10 committee charged with reviewing possible compliance violations within the Pac-10 institutions. The Pac-10 is the only conference that polices its own members in this way.

Next Meeting

To be announced.

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