

BULLET POINTS FOR PRESENTATION TO **UNIVERSITY SENATE 2008-2009**

We are keenly aware everyone associated with the university wants this to be a great university and remain a part of the Association of American Universities.

As a window to the institution, the Athletic Department strives to help the university fulfill its mission and promote its quality throughout the state and the nation. We continue our efforts to utilize athletic events and athletic broadcast coverage to recognize faculty excellence and programs of regional and national significance.

The Athletic Department has collaborated on several projects over the course of the last year to engender interaction between the department and academic units, most notably with the College of Business (Mac Court Promotions Campaign) and the School of Law (Competition, Not Conflict Program). In addition, \$100,000 from football television revenue will be given to the library next year.

The department continues to be one of the most diverse within the university and play a significant role in attracting minority students to the campus.

Our athletes are students first, and like all other parts of the institution, our goal in athletics is to ensure they receive the best possible experience academically and athletically. We must graduate as many of our student-athletes as possible. The quality of many of our student-athletes far exceeds that of many of our Pac-10 rivals.

Nicole Dobrzynski was named the Pac-10 scholar-athlete of the year for women's soccer. Galen Rupp was Pac-10 scholar-athlete of the year for cross country, and Nick Reed was selected as both an academic All-American and a first team member of the Walter Camp All-America football team. In addition, Nick was the recipient of an NCAA post-graduate scholarship. This is three individuals selected as the outstanding scholar-athlete for their respective sports during the fall season in the Pac-10 conference when we only had five varsity teams competing.

The department will host an academic awards banquet this May to honor all of our scholar-athletes.

Our student-athletes have acted as positive role models on campus and in the community:

In September of 2008 the University of Oregon Athletic Department launched a new community service program called O Heroes. The goal of O Heroes is to create a single identity for all community service initiatives and to increase involvement from all student-athletes. Service is focused in three areas in which student-athletes believe they are able to excel: health, education and service. The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee decided to launch O Heroes as a student-organization and a nonprofit organization, allowing them to collect donations on campus grounds including at athletic facilities and to donate these funds back to the community.

O Heroes serves the community through annual department-wide projects, team projects, individual projects, and by fulfilling requests from the community. Every year O Heroes adopts a "Duckling", who is a local child battling an illness. They provide financial and emotional support to that child throughout the year. O Heroes participates in three Days of Service annually which are days where every athletic team participates in a service project. In November, 2008, O Heroes collected money then shopped for and delivered 39 Thanksgiving dinners to families in St. Vincent de Paul's housing program. In addition, O Heroes attempts to fulfill service requests from the community that comply with the program's three areas of focus. During the fall of 2008, student-athletes logged over 450 hours and served over 650 community members.

We are here to educate the next generation of leaders. The intrinsic value of participation in sports and the life lessons learned by these young men and young women cannot be overstated.

The IAC continues to be the primary faculty body to assure academic policies and practices are consistent with supporting the intellectual growth and academic success of student athletes and the viability of athletics as an integral part of campus life.

The Athletic Department will be able to enhance student life by coordinating the academic support component and the student services component under one roof when the new Academic Learning Center is completed. One area in particular which will benefit the student-athletes in the new Academic Learning Center is career planning.

The Academic Learning Center will include a new lecture hall for academic use as well as a wireless cafe for the university community.

There are no major violations in any sport to report.

Our baseball program has returned after a twenty-seven year hiatus. All games this season have been sold out and all future games for this season are sold out. *The baseball team presently has a 2.76 cumulative GPA through the winter quarter, and the Athletic Department remains committed to monitoring and ensuring compliance with both NCAA and university academic standards.* The Team Stunts and Gymnastics program has four athletes on campus at this time and will begin competition next year. Those athletes from our former wrestling program who chose to remain at the University of Oregon are still receiving their athletic financial aid and academic support.

The athletic department presently has a budget of roughly \$54.6 million. It is paying all of its bills and included in the budget is approximately eight million dollars (approximately 14% of our expenditures) being put back into the university's economy for services provided; however, our financial situation is tenuous. Despite the fact that revenues from the arena and the underground garage are yet to be realized, the Department is responsible for paying some debt service *for the land under the new arena as well as for the construction of the underground garage.* There are no reserves at this time, and we do not anticipate any reserves until the Legacy Fund is in place, fully funded and functioning as intended. Meeting our financial obligations will be challenging but we are committed to being a self-sustaining athletic program.

Over two-thirds of our income comes either directly or indirectly from football. Ticket renewals for football are comparable to and, in fact, slightly ahead of last year's renewals.

Interest in our programs has never been greater. In any given month, we are experiencing anywhere from 1.5 to 2.8 million page views at GoDucks.com.

Donations and ticket prices have been established for the new arena and the opportunity exists for people to pay the same amount for tickets there as they have in MacArthur Court and in some cases without any donation. The new arena will be named for Phil and Penny Knight's late son, Matthew. Permit issues may delay the opening of the arena until the end of December in 2010. The financial ramifications of this delay remain unknown until a precise opening is determined.

In addition to the aforementioned Academic Learning Center, the first phase of the new baseball stadium is nearly complete and our first home game in twenty-seven years was held in February. The event was an overwhelming success.

University athletic events and events associated with the athletic department (i.e. the Olympic Trials, US Trials for the World [USA T&F] Championships, and NCAA Championships) continue to have a significant impact on the region's economy and bring positive attention to the university on a national and global stage.

We would like our teams to be successful in the Pacific Ten Conference. We would also like our teams to compete well in the national arena, which they have done!

Our national championship cross country team was a repeat winner this year and the football team's success continues to bring positive attention from across nation to the university community and the region. In addition, our indoor track and field team also won an NCAA championship and our volleyball team returned to the sweet sixteen of the NCAA tournament for the second year in a row.

It is significant to note that of the nineteen (19) seniors on our football team, fifteen have already completed their degree requirements, including one with an MBA. It should also be noted that every University of Oregon intercollegiate athletic team is above the NCAA "cut score" for the Academic Progress Rate (APR).

All of these accomplishments fall well within the university's mission as a community dedicated to the highest standards of learning and service.

Finally, our plan for my departure which was put in place in December is coming to fruition. Mike Bellotti will become the athletic director on July 1 and "Chip" Kelly has already taken over as our head football coach.

Proud to be associated with such a special group of professionals. Thank you for your support during my stay in Eugene. All the best in future
Go Ducks