

TO University Senate
FROM John E. Davidson, Athletic Council Chair 2011-2012
SUBJECT Athletic Council Annual Report 2011-12
DATE 15 August 2012

Prologue

Pursuant to the structure, duties, and responsibilities described in University Rule 3335-5-48.5, Athletic Council (AC) is the fifteen-member body (8 faculty, 4 students, 2 alumni, 1 staff) that “as an agent of the Senate, in accordance with the University Bylaws, and subject to the general authority of the President and the Board of Trustees, shall have the power and authority to create and establish policies governing intercollegiate athletics.” It does the bulk of its work in three standing committees: Academic Progress and Eligibility; Equity and Student-Athlete Wellbeing; and, Finances and Facilities. In this report, the 2011-12 activities of those committees are described below by the individual committee chairs, followed by summary remarks by the AC chair.

Academic Progress and Eligibility (AP&E)

During the 2011-2012 year, AP&E focused on three major initiatives.

First, AP&E spent enormous time studying, discussing, and revising the AC’s Missed-Class Time & Final-Examination Period Rule as the University prepared to institute a semester schedule in 2012-13. The conversion from a Quarter rule to a Semester rule was complicated by the fact that several sports that traditionally had their seasons straddle two quarters would now be competing in only one semester. Furthermore, there was a desire to have the new rule be workable without the constant need for petitions to waive the Missed-Class Time Rule. We believe that this mission was accomplished by focusing on the efficacy of the team’s Academic Mitigation Plan rather than on days of class missed, unless the missed-class days become excessive.

Second, AP&E met with the new coaching staffs of Women’s Lacrosse, Ice Hockey, and Football. These meetings were extremely productive as the AP&E received a much better appreciation of the needs and challenges of the coaching staffs and students-athletes. At the same time, the new coaching staffs gained a thorough understanding of the role and mission of the AC.

Third, AP&E reviewed and prepared an Audit Report of the Student-Athlete Support Services Office (SASSO), targeting its Business Office functions and activities. This review focused on how the SASSO Business Office handles distribution of books for student-athletes on scholarship. In addition, AP&E reviewed the Business Office’s budget, compliance with University business practices, and the quality of services performed by Business Office personnel.

In addition, AP&E received, reviewed, and discussed regular reports from SASSO on the academic performance of student-athletes. Finally, for the first time, AP&E received, reviewed, and studied the Compliance Office’s Report on the University’s compliance with NCAA regulations.

Prepared by Prof. Charlie Wilson (Law)
AP&E Committee Chair

Equity and Student-Athlete Wellbeing (ESAW)

ESAW reviewed the five *charges* of the committee and planned activities for the year accordingly.

a. *Monitor issues of equity related to student-athletes and provide timely reports on equity matters to the Council*

- Title IX audit reports were completed on Housing/Dining, Publicity/Promotions, Travel/Per Diem and reported to AC.

b. *Monitor issues related to the well-being of student-athletes, including emotional and physical health, personal development, social responsibility, sportsmanship, and ethical conduct*

- Officers of the Student-Athlete Advisory Board (SAAB) attended ESAW and shared their structure, the activities they sponsor, and future endeavors.
- Dr. Chris Kaeding (Orthopedics) and Janine Oman (Asst. AD – Sports Performance) provided ESAW with updates on concussions and rhabdomyolysis.
- ESAW discussed the need for more emphasis on mental health and the possibility of making that a point of concentration in 2012-13.

c. *Serve in an advisory capacity to student wellness and development programs within the Department of Athletics (DofA) including, but not limited to SASSO and SAAB.*

- David Graham (Director of SASSO) attended a meeting and shared the Tool Box focused on Life Skills for student-athletes.

d. *Monitor media coverage and encourage efforts to provide accurate information about student-athletes to the university community and general public*

- Dan Wallenberg (Assoc. AD for Communications) and Jim Lynch (Media Relations) attended a meeting and provided updated information on publicity and promotions.

e. *Foster communication about the progress and success of student-athletes to the university community and the general public*

- These issues were discussed with Wallenberg and Lynch when they visited the committee

In addition, ESAW deliberated with the DofA and suggested changes for the Appreciation Banquets to honor student-athletes who have attained exceptional athletic achievements (see AC Bylaws Appendix B3: “Proclamations of Student-Athletes and Teams”).

Prepared by Assoc. Prof. Antoinette Miranda (School Psychology)
ESAW Committee Chair

Finances and Facilities (FiFa)

Football ticket pricing for the 2012 season took up a major portion of FiFa’s attention in the fall of 2011. At least 3 separate plans were proposed by the DofA and discussed by FiFa. Ultimately the decision was to freeze prices at the 2011 level.

A related, but distinct activity was following up on the major change in the faculty/staff point system for the 2012 season as approved by the AC in June 2011. One result of this overview was to propose that Auxiliary faculty be granted one point/yr as are other faculty and staff compared to the one half point/yr in the original revision. The proposal was approved by AC.

The member dues and greens fees at the OSU Golf Club were discussed. The recommendations of the Greens Committee were reviewed and a modified recommendation was approved by FiFa and forwarded to the AC where it was approved.

Another area of discussion was the DofA's plans for updating facilities and dealing with deferred maintenance. Specific projects were discussed as well as the line of credit of up to \$40 million from the University.

Roughly quarterly, the DofA budget was discussed and comparisons made between actual revenues and expenditures. Overall the budget was well adhered to and where unforeseen events occurred, appropriate adjustments made. New policies were discussed when they impacted the budget, e.g. car stipends for coaches, i-pads for student athletes.

Prepared by Prof. Terry Miller (Chemistry)
FiFa Committee Chair

Summary Remarks

2011-2012 was an exceptionally busy and productive year for AC, one complicated by the final push moving up to semester conversion. In addition to consulting and acting on matters brought before it from the standing committees as described above, AC focused especially on:

1. Improving interaction with the DofA.
 - In 2011-12, the AC Executive Committee was reinvigorated -- comprising the Chair, Vice-Chair, Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), and Director of Athletics, this body met roughly monthly to discuss ongoing issues and to better foresee issues that might arise moving forward.
 - AC members served on hiring committees for new coaches in several sports.
2. Fostering understanding of AC's function among student-athletes and coaches.
 - In AU2011 an existing program assigning AC members as liaisons to teams was revamped to make that interaction more meaningful. A schedule was established whereby all sports would have pairs of liaisons at least once in a five-term rotation under semesters, in some cases more than once. In WI/SP quarters 2012 this program was piloted and reports filed for Men's and Women's Swimming, Wrestling, Men's Tennis, Pistol, Softball, and Men's Gymnastics.
3. Increasing its knowledge of issues impacting OSU's intercollegiate athletics and academics.
 - The first part of the year was occupied in large part with tracking actions at the NCAA and Big Ten levels that might impact OSU's student-athletes: in particular, we received regular reports from the FAR on the proposed increases in initial eligibility standards and supplemental stipends.

- In WI 2012 both the Chair and Vice Chair attended and reported back to AC on the annual meeting of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA), an affiliation of faculty representing more than fifty university senates at institutions that have D-1 football programs, of which OSU is a member. AC determined that it is important for OSU to have a continuing and visible role in this body dedicated to the “collegiate model” in sports: it voted to maximize our knowledge and influence by sending these two elected officers to COIA on an annual basis when schedules allow it.
 - In SP 2012 AC began to hear special reports on matters of particular interest: for example, Vice President Jay Kasey came to give a presentation on the physical and fiscal developments around the “One-University Framework.” This practice will be carried over and expanded in the next academic year.
4. Strengthening the role it plays as a link between athletics and the constituencies represented on AC.
- The Chair made frequent requests to appear before Faculty Council and Senate (in concert with the Director of Athletics and the FAR). The Chair met periodically with student, staff, and alumni members of AC in order to gather input about their constituents’ concerns and to encourage them to facilitate communication in both directions on matters of interest regarding intercollegiate athletics.
 - In 2011-12 AC played a leading role in fostering the dissemination of the revised Points System for faculty and staff football and basketball tickets, which was approved by the previous year’s Council at its last meeting. At the beginning of SU 2011 Human Resources, the DofA, and the University Staff Advisory Council representative were apprised of the policy and requested to post it on their websites. At the same time, and again at the end of SU 2011, the senate office and faculty leadership received the policy, with the suggestion to post and distribute it as appropriate and the reminder that the Senate may hold policies of AC in review. AC, in particular its chair and the chair of FiFA, consulted frequently with HR, the Ticket Office, and DofA staff throughout AU 2011 to clarify the policy and develop summary versions for dissemination. In WI 2012 a set of correspondence templates was developed to be sent to those adversely impacted by the new policy. The chair of AC has conducted follow-up correspondence with individuals who have submitted queries regarding the policy.

Respectfully submitted by Assoc. Prof. John E. Davidson (GLL)
Athletic Council Chair (2011-12)