

Report of the Athletic Council

2008-09 Academic Year

1. General Information

The Athletic Council (AC) is an arm of the University Senate whose functions are to “consider and establish policies... governing intercollegiate athletics ... and to “participate with the president” in the selection of an incoming or the review of an incumbent faculty athletic representative. The full panoply of the authority, structure, duties, and responsibilities of the Council can be found in the University Bylaws, 3335-5-48.5.

The Council consists of 15 voting members:

Faculty Representatives: Gwendolyn Cartledge, Philip T.K. Daniel (Chair), John Davidson, Timothy Gerber, Karen Mancl, Terry Miller, Robert Tabita, and Sharon West.

Student Representatives: Micah Kamrass (undergraduate), Daniel Klauer (professional), Lucas Nutter (undergraduate), and Lea Popielinski (graduate).

Staff Representative: Richard Wofford.

Alumni Representatives: David Barker and Robert Weiler.

Ex officio members:

Ex Officio Non-Voting Members: Eugene Smith (Director of Athletics), John Bruno (Faculty Athletics Representative), Amy Graeff (Student-Athlete Advisory Board), David Graham (Student-Athlete Support Services Office), and Richard Hollingsworth (Vice President for Student Affairs). **Note:** Richard Hollingsworth retired in January, 2009 and his position on the Athletic Council was assumed by Javaune Adams-Gaston, Vice President for Student Life.

2. Governance of the Athletic Council

The Athletic Council is governed by a set of internal bylaws featuring membership composition, duties and responsibilities of officers and members as regards student-athletes, the Senate, the Athletic Department, and the greater university, terms of service, and procedures and recommendations for promoting the athletics enterprise. The agenda of the Council is carried out largely through its standing committees. These include the Academic Progress and Eligibility Committee, the Equity and Student-Welfare Committee, and the Finance Facilities Committee. These committees have ongoing responsibilities that are customarily reported to the Council at regularly scheduled meetings. Each committee is composed of Council representatives as well

as athletic department administrators. Committee members exchange relevant information and knowledge and form working relationships to address athletic activity and policy. In addition, according to the Athletic Council Bylaws, the AC chair may “establish ad hoc committees as necessary.” Art. I. § 5(1)(d).

3. Standing Committee Activities

a. Academic Progress and Eligibility – membership on this committee consists of all eight faculty members and one student representative of the Council. There are also ex-officio members consisting of the Faculty Athletics Representative, the Associate Athletic Director for compliance, the Associate Athletics Directors with administrative responsibility for teams, the Director of the Student-Athlete Support Services Office (SASSO), and two student-athletes selected by the Student-Athlete Advisory Board (SAAB).

Membership:

Chair: Sharon West

Members: Gwendolyn Cartledge, Philip T.K. Daniel, John Davidson, Timothy Gerber, Karen Mancl, Terry Miller, Robert Tabita, and Lucas Nutter (student).

Ex Officio members: Douglas Archie, John Bruno, Amy Graeff (SAAB), David Graham, Heather Lyke-Catalano, Darin Meeker, Christopher Schneider, Thorton “T.J.” Shelton, Gene Smith, Miechelle Willis

In accordance with past practice, AP&E met in person monthly, though drafts of certain meeting action items were circulated and discussed electronically in preparation for meetings. In addition, extra meetings are sometimes held to address more urgent business. During both 2007-08 and 2008-09 special meetings were held to consider student-athlete petitions for relief from local eligibility requirements.

Regular Business:

AP&E has four regular responsibilities based on Athletic Council internal bylaws.

1. The AP&E committee reviews eligibility regulations concerning intercollegiate practice and competition to ensure that Ohio State’s regulations conform to Big 10 and NCAA guidelines and to the requirements for good academic standing expected of students at the university. The committee spends a great deal of time on this responsibility.

2. The committee acts on petitions for relief from local eligibility requirements and receives reports from the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) on petitions from eligibility requirements submitted to the Big Ten and the NCAA. The committee heard reports from the associate athletic director for compliance and the FAR regarding external petitions.

3. The AP&E committee receives quarterly reports from the Director of SASSO on the academic performance and progress of student-athletes. For the most part the data received were positive, a trend consistent with previous Athletic Council reports.

4. The committee selects the winners of the student-athlete achievement awards, bestowed at the Athletic Council meeting, and the Big Ten Conference Medal of Honor (one male, one female), recognized at the annual Scholar-Athlete banquet.

Special Business:

AP&E spent time on a variety of matters beyond the regular business during this academic year. These matters are described below.

1) In 2007-08 the committee addressed the issue of missed classes for football players because of bowl game invitations. AP&E worked with SASSO and OAA to help explain the status of these students to faculty, to facilitate the process by which the student-athletes would seek book and assignment information from faculty so that they could do whatever work possible while away, and to discuss the plans for study tables and study time for the student-athletes at the game venue. The committee also created a Missed Class Time Rule so as to serve as an amendment to the Athletic Council Bylaws, approved by the Council in 2008.

The Missed Class Time Rule for all teams took effect in 2008-09. AP&E received petitions seeking waivers of the limit on missed class time or permission to compete the weekend before final exams from several teams. The committee reviewed both the rule itself and the material required with a petition. The committee decided to leave the rule unchanged. All petitions must still include a detailed academic mitigation plan. But some petition requirements were changed; slightly less documentation was sought for teams requesting permission to compete the weekend before exams and for teams seeking permission to miss up to 7 ½ days of class during a single quarter. For teams wishing to miss 8 days of class or more, the requirements are unchanged. See Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 to this report.

2) In both 2007-08 and 2008-09 AP&E assisted the Director of SASSO in considering means of improving communication between SASSO and faculty members teaching student-athletes. This was undertaken so as to support SASSO in identifying student-athletes who may need special attention in order to achieve their academic potential. A formal procedure for this activity has now been put in place.

3) In 2007-08, owing to press reports of a differentiation of national graduation rates of football and men's basketball players based on race AP&E began a process of reviewing data in the context of a broader review of the academic progress of student-athletes. A special subcommittee was created by the senate Committee on Enrollment and Student Progress (CESP) to address that issue which AP&E participated in. One result of that participation was the creation of a new report to AP&E and to CESP that looks at graduation outcomes on a student-

by-student basis in men's football and basketball. This is an ongoing annual report and new data were presented in 2008-09.

4) In 2007-08 AP&E investigated the issue of missed class time for student-athletes as related to sports schedules. AP&E determined that Ohio State's general policy was in the heartland of approaches within the Big 10 and was an appropriate policy, but that Ohio State was unusual in not having a rule on the subject with some level of oversight at the time of schedule creation. Accordingly, a new Missed Class Time rule was drafted, debated and passed by AP&E and then adopted by Athletic Council. Procedures for waivers were also discussed by a subcommittee, and guidelines for petitions for waivers were approved by AP&E. Some waiver petitions were received and, as of this writing, AP&E has approved one such waiver for next season. This process was revised and placed in the new Athletic Council Bylaws beginning in autumn, 2008.

5) AP&E returned to an issue it had explored several years earlier: Varsity Credit. Athletic Council had previously recommended a "cap" of taking this participation credit course twice. Because of conflicting advice student-athletes were receiving, AP&E determined that it was necessary to turn that recommendation into an eligibility rule. After extensive consultation with the Registrar's Office, SASSO and the college academic advisors, AP&E approved such a rule, and it was subsequently adopted by Athletic Council. See Attachment 3.

b. Equity and Student-Athlete Welfare Committee – the committee has at least four faculty members and two students, all members of the Athletic Council. Ex Officio members include representatives of SAAB and the Office of Legal Affairs, an assistant or associate athletic director selected by the Athletic Director, and the Faculty Athletics Representative.

Membership:

Chair: Gwendolyn Cartledge

Members: Amy Graeff (SAAB Rep), Micah Kamrass (undergrad), Daniel Klauer (professional student), Karen Mancl (faculty), Terry Miller (faculty).

Ex Officio Members: Tom McGinnis (Dept. Athletics), Julie Vannatta (Legal Counsel), Michelle Willis (Dept. Athletics).

Regular Business.

The committee monitors equity across the athletic program and the welfare of student athletes outside the classroom. Based on the internal bylaws of the Council the committee:

- 1) Monitors issues of equity related to the athletics program and provides timely reports on equity to the Council;
- 2) Monitors issues related to the total well-being of student-athletes, including emotional and physical health, personal development, social responsibility, sportsmanship, and ethical conduct;

- 3) Serves as an advisory body to student welfare and development program within the Department of Athletics (e.g., SASSO, SAAB, Health and Social Responsibility Committee);
- 4) Monitors media coverage about student-athletes. Encourage efforts to provide accurate information about student-athletes to the university community and general public in the best interest of both the students and the university.

The primary work of the committee is the exhaustive review of various dimensions of equity related to the *Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act of 1994*; (Section 485g of the Higher Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. 1092). Each year the committee investigates three topics as required by this Act.

During 2008-09 most of the activity of ESAW focused on Title IX compliance. The topics pertained to (1) housing and dining, (2) travel, and (3) publicity. Subcommittee chairs are Bob Tabita, Terry Miller, and Karen Mancl, respectively. Reports were compiled by the subcommittees and submitted to the full AC and approved during a May, 2009 meeting.

Another equity issue was a review of the Athletic Department's gender and race (department staff and student athletes) report, provided by Tom McGinnis. In discussing the report, the importance of race and gender to student athletes was noted. That is, students had greater comfort if a person of the same race/gender was on the coaching staff, although not necessarily the head coach. The discrepancy (compared to other groups) between the relative percentages of African American student athletes and their corresponding percentages in the general student body was noted. That is, other racial/ethnic groups had parity between the percentages of student athletes and percentage in the student body. African Americans, on the other hand, made up 13% of the student athletes and approximately 6% of the student body.

An important student welfare issue addressed this year was the possibility of a disproportionate number of female student athlete injuries. Dr. Chris Kaeding, orthopedic physician and Janine Oman, physical therapist, came to an ESAW meeting to share their thoughts on student athlete injuries with a particular emphasis on female injuries. An important recommendation to emerge from that meeting was that student athletes (especially females) should receive more education on the beneficial effects of specific training regimes. This should include biomedical information on how certain exercises would aid in preventing injury and improve athletic abilities. ESAW recommended that the medical staff provide more direct student instruction along these lines. The committee will follow-up on this in the 2009-2010 year to see if additional information is being provided to the athletes.

c. Finance and Facilities Committee - The committee is composed of four faculty members, one member of the alumni, one undergraduate student representative, one graduate student representative, and one staff member. There are ex officio members consisting of the director of athletics, the senior associate athletics director for finance operations, the associate

athletic director for finance, the assistant athletic director for auxiliary services, the assistant athletic director for tickets and other auxiliary enterprises, and a representative from the Office of Budget and Finance.

Membership:

Chair: Robert Weiler (alumni)

Members: Philip T.K. Daniel (faculty), John Davidson (faculty), Timothy Gerber (faculty), Sharon West (faculty), David Barker (alumni), Lea Popielinski (graduate student), Lucas Nutter (undergraduate student), Richard Wofford (staff).

Ex Officio members: Benjamin Jay, Dennis Hoobler, Peter Hagan, and William Jones

This Committee's primary responsibilities are:

- 1) Review of the budget of the Department of Athletics;
- 2) Review of the use and conditions of athletic facilities;
- 3) Review all ticket policies, including pricing, availability and distribution including the green fees at the golf course.

The major goal for the year was to examine present policies on ticket allocation, eligibility and ticket distribution for football among the constituent groups.

During the course of the academic year, the committee in its meetings discussed many issues and concerns relative to this multifaceted goal. The following are some of the areas of discussion:

- Eligibility qualifications for football tickets for the 3 constituent groups...OSU Students, Faculty /Staff and Alumni.
- Adjustment to student and alumni seating quotas
- Sale of football tickets on the secondary market
- Ticket pricing for 08' both football and basketball.
- Seating location for both sports
- Adjustment of green fees for 08' season
- Policy adjustments by the ticket office for timely notification and delivery of confirmation for ticket purchasers.

Accomplishments were achieved in several of the concerns and in addition new policies were accepted and integrated into current business practices.

Revenue Notes: (to be included).

Expense Notes: (to be included).

d. Ad Hoc Committee – The Chair also appointed a committee to review and make recommendations for revision of the Athletic Council Bylaws. This was initially undertaken in early 2008 with approval of substantive changes in May, 2008 by both the Athletic Council and the University Senate. An updated revision with amendments occurred in with final approval by the Senate in November, 2008.

5. Acknowledgements –

Members of the Athletic Council wish to especially acknowledge President E. Gordon Gee for his incisive advice and counsel as regards the student-athlete experience and the overall intercollegiate enterprise both at OSU and on the national level. Dr. Gee attended several meetings of the AC during the year both on and off-campus. This is a tradition that he promises will continue.

We also wish to convey our gratitude to the many Athletic Department (AD) professionals who worked to assist us in the performance of our work. We thank the AD representatives for their steadfast support and for their help with AC committees and projects. These persons include: Michelle Willis, Senior Athletics Director for Student Services and Sports Administration, Tom Hof, Senior Athletics Director for External Relations, Ben Jay, Senior Athletics Director for Finance and Operations, Pete Hagan, Associate Athletics Director for Finance, Dennis Hoobler, Associate Athletics Director for Development and Tickets, Steve Snapp, Associate Athletics Director for Communications, Heather Lyke-Catalano, Associate Athletics Director for Sport Administration, Douglas Archie, Associate Athletics Director for Compliance and Camps, Chris Schneider, Assistant Athletics Director for Sport Administration, Don Patko, Assistant Athletics Director for Facilities, Tom McGinnis, Assistant Athletics Director for Administration and Human Resources, and Bill Jones, Senior Director for Ticketing and Premium Seating. We are also grateful to Jim Mergner, Athletic Department Office Coordinator for the scheduling of meetings and for secretarial support.

We thank David Graham, Director of the Office of Student-Athletic Support Services (SASSO) and Darin Meeker, Associate Director, for their work with the Academic Progress and Eligibility Committee, for creating numerous reports for the AC, and for organizing the Scholar-Athlete Banquet.

Thanks to John Bruno, Faculty Athletics Representative to the Big Ten and NCAA for participation with the AC, for his various reports, and for his advice and counsel on overall athletic and student athlete activity.

Thanks also to Martha Garland and the members of the Office of Academic Affairs for their diligence and for their supply of information and for their assistance in athlete admissions and for monitoring the academic activity of student-athletes.

Of course, the work of Athletic Council could not be what it is without the support of Gene Smith, Director of Athletics. We are of like mind on the symbiotic relationship of academic

progress and athletic participation among student-athletes and we are grateful for the resources and the free flow of information between the AC and the Athletic Department.

Finally, I would like to personally thank the Athletic Council members, both regular and ex officio, for their due diligence in promoting a successful year of service. Every member worked with tireless effort and with determined commitment to meet Council goals.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip T.K. Daniel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Philip T.K. Daniel, Chair
Athletic Council

Attachments

Attachment 1

Missed class time:

Petitions submitted to Academic Progress and Equity for 2008-09 schedule

Week/weekend before exams

- Women's swimming/diving
- Baseball
- Women's lacrosse
- Women's volleyball
- Men's ice hockey autumn and winter
- Wrestling

5 1/2-7 days of missed class time

- Baseball
5 1/2 winter + 7 spring (up to 9 more for tournaments)
- Women's volleyball
7 days
- Men's ice hockey
6 autumn + 6 winter
- Women's ice hockey
5 1/2 autumn

8 days or more of missed class time

- Women's tennis
10 1/2 autumn (+ 4 1/2 winter + 1 spring and up to 11 more for tournaments)
- Men's tennis
11 1/2 autumn + 8 winter (+1 1/2 spring and up to 9 more for tournaments)
- Men's golf
8 autumn (including 2 days first week) + 6 winter (+1 spring and up to 9 more for tournaments)
- Women's golf
8 winter (+ 2 autumn +3 spring and up to 9 more for tournaments)

Attachment 2

Academic Progress and Equity has adopted the following changes in the procedure for submitting petitions seeking waiver of the Missed Class Time rule:

1. A reduced petition requirement for teams seeking permission to miss 6-7 days of class **and/or** to schedule competition the week or weekend before final exams.
 - In those cases, the team would submit its competition calendar (with missed class days totaled at the bottom) along with an academic mitigation plan.
 - AP&E would consider the petition based on the mitigation plan **and** a discussion with SASSO about the team's overall and individual academic performance for the previous season.
 - The committee would: approve the petition, deny the petition, or approve with a strong recommendation to the coach that team members at academic risk not travel with the team.

2. Petitions to miss 8 or more class days in a quarter continue to follow the documentation requirements already in place:
 - the competition calendar (with missed class days totaled at the bottom)
 - an academic mitigation plan
 - an alternative competition schedule which meets the five- day rule **and** an explanation of the effect such a schedule would have
 - competition schedules for major competitors.

Attachment 3

Varsity Credit Rule

1. In determining a student-athlete's academic eligibility for competition under the NCAA Fulfillment of Credit-Hours Bylaw 14.4.3.1 (six-hour rule) and the Minimum Quantitative Requirements of Big 10 Rules 14.4.3.1., a student-athlete will not be credited for participation in education: Physical Activity and Education Services 196 (Varsity Squad) if the student-athlete has carried the class to completion twice before.
 - a. *In determining a student-athlete's enrollment status and degree-credit requirements for graduation, the above rules would not preclude a student-athlete from taking multiple varsity hours for purpose for fulfilling degree requirements as specified by the student-athlete's college. In addition, such rules would not preclude a student-athlete from using more than two varsity credit hours to meet the definition of full-time enrollment as defined by the Registrar's Office or the applicable college.*

2. In determining a student-athlete's eligibility for the completion under the NCAA Fulfillment of Credit-Hours Bylaw 14.4.3.1 (the "six-hour rule") and the Minimum Quantitative Requirements of Big Ten Rule 14.4.3.1, a student-athlete will not be credited for participation in Education: Physical Activity and Educational Services 196 (Varsity Squads) for any quarter outside of the quarters of active sport participation.