

Report of the Athletic Council

2006-07 Academic Year

1. General Information

The Athletic Council 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), Timothy Gerber, Alan Michaels, Sally Rudmann, Barry Shank, Robert Tabita, and Sharon West.

Student Representatives: Nicolas Benson (undergraduate), David Boley (graduate), Daniel Klempay (undergraduate), and Ann Vollmar (professional).

Staff Representative: Tina Love.

Alumni Representatives: David Barker and Robert Weiler.

There are also so ex officio members:

Ex Officio Non-Voting Members: Eugene Smith (Director of Athletics), John Bruno (Faculty Athletics Representative), Emily Francis (Student-Athlete Advisory Board), David Graham (Student-Athlete Support Services Office), and Richard Hollingsworth (Vice President for Student Affairs).

2. Overview of the Athletic Council Agenda

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 and 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.

Based on its internal bylaws the Athletic Council has a tradition of graduated leadership, i.e., the elected chair must be moving into the fourth year of service and the faculty chairs of committees must be in their third year of service. Because of the premature loss of

three senior members of the Council due to the assumption of administrative positions (thus annulling eligibility for faculty membership) a third year member was elected chair and second year members were elected faculty committee chairs. This necessitated an activity of abbreviated on the job training just to maintain pace with regular Council business. This also meant that Council members spent long hours gaining an understanding of the rules and how they meshed with Athletic Department activity. The 2007-08 academic year promises a return to leadership selection consistent with the guidelines.

3. Standing Committee Activities

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: Alan Michaels

Members: Gwendolyn Cartledge, Philip T.K. Daniel, Timothy Gerber, Sally Rudmann, Barry Shank, Robert Tabita, and Sharon West, Ann Vollmar (student).

Ex Officio members: Doug Archie, John Bruno, David Graham, Kate Linehan, Heather Lyke, Bill Myles, Chris Schneider, Gene Smith, Matt Toresco, and Miechelle Willis.

In addition, Darin Meeker, Associate Director of SAAB, regularly attended the meetings.

Regular Business:

AP&E has four regular responsibilities based on its 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 spent a great deal of time on this responsibility. Because the specifics were out of the ordinary, they are described under "Special Business" below.

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. As of the time of this report, AP&E had no petitions in 2006-07 for relief from local requirements. 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. Because of the aforementioned high turnover of faculty on Athletic Council last year, a majority of the members of the committee were not familiar with these reports or the metrics by which student data are measured. In addition, the SASSO director was new. In short, there was limited “institutional memory.” Accordingly, when the committee received these reports, its members spent considerable time gaining an understanding of and suggesting modifications to the information provided. For the most part the data received were positive, a trend consistent with previous athletic council reports. During 2006-07, there were 896 and 874 student-athletes enrolled for autumn and winter quarters respectively. For these quarters student-athletes once again, experienced an overall GPA slightly above a 3.00 (3.02). Moreover, 56% of our athletes achieved a grade point average above a 3.00 in autumn quarter and over 57% accomplished the same average during winter quarter, the latest grading period for which we have full data.

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. Student-athlete achievement awards were given during winter and spring quarters. The Big Ten Conference Medal of Honor awards were presented to two students on May 23 at the banquet.

Special Business:

The committee spent time on a variety of matters beyond the regular business during the academic year. These matters are described below:

- 1) The football team was selected to play in the BCS National Championship game. The game was scheduled to be played after the start of winter quarter. In order to attend the game, hence, the players and student trainers were compelled to miss a number of classes. The AP&E members worked with SASSO and the Office of Academic Affairs to craft correspondence to faculty so as to facilitate the process by which student-athletes would seek book and assignment information from faculty while away, and to discuss the plans for study tables and study time for the athletes in Arizona, the site of the championship. A letter to this effect was mailed to faculty in late December, 2006 under the signatures of the Chair of Athletic Council and the Chair of the Academic Progress and Eligibility committee.
- 2) Because the national championship game was to take place after the start of Winter Quarter, a question arose regarding what the effect of Autumn Quarter grades would be under Ohio State's own internal eligibility rules. The text of the rules was ambiguous on this issue. After consulting with the Assoc. A.D. for compliance, the FAR, the Office of the Registrar, OAA and the Dept. of Athletics, AP&E agreed on an interpretation of these rules.

- 3) The process described in #2 brought to AP&E's attention that our internal eligibility rules were not as well codified as they could be. Accordingly, following a thorough review process, Ohio State's eligibility rules were all redrafted to provide a clear and uniform statement of their content. AP&E recommended adoption of these redrafted rules to replace the prior iterations, and Athletic Council unanimously approved that recommendation.
- 4) AP&E has periodically given out student-athlete achievement awards as part of its regular duties. The process and standards for these awards, however, was also not as well codified as it could be. Accordingly, AP&E adopted a written standard for the award, which emphasizes a student persevering to overcome some obstacle to academic achievement, and began a regularized process of selecting award winners.
- 5) AP&E assisted the Director of SASSO in considering means of improving communication between SASSO and faculty members teaching student-athletes to assist SASSO in identifying student-athletes who may need special attention of some kind to assist them in achieving their academic potential. This review is still ongoing.
- 6) Press reports about relative graduation rates of football players of different races pointed to an area of concern. AP&E began a process of reviewing this data in the context of a broader review of the academic progress of student-athletes. That process is ongoing and will continue into the '07-'08 academic year.

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: Timothy Gerber

Members: Gwendolyn Cartledge, Philip T.K. Daniel, Emily Francis, Daniel Klempay, and Sharon West.

Ex Officio Members: John Bruno, Tom McGinnis, Richard Hollingsworth, Ben Jay, Julie Vannatta, Robert Weiler, and Miechelle Willis.

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. In 2007, subcommittees of the Equity and Student Welfare Committee will conclude their work and submit related reports for the following areas:

- 1) Locker Rooms, Practice & Competitive Facilities [Cartledge, Vannatta, and Jay]
- 2) Recruitment of Student Athletes (Gerber and Francis)
- 3) Medical and Training Facilities and services (West and McGinnis)
- 4) Scheduling of Games & Practices (Willis and Daniel)

In addition to these investigations that address equity, the committee discussed in regard to student welfare a revised code of student conduct. This document contains a new section, the “Statement on Social Networks” that does not prohibit student athletes’ online social networking and engagement in cyber communities, (e.g., Facebook.com or MySpace.com), but does state “the Department of Athletics will not tolerate inappropriate or embarrassing information or pictures placed on student-athletes’ sites.” This characterizes the concerns of the Equity and Student Welfare Committee.

Finance and Facilities Committee – during the spring quarter 2006 this committee was consolidated from the Finance and Facilities Committee and the Tickets, Fees, and Access Committee to form one group. During the 2006-07 year the combination was made official by a vote of the Athletic Council and codified in its minutes. The change will be reflected in a new version of the Council internal bylaws to be reauthorized during the 2007-08 academic year. 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: David Barker

Members: Nicolas Benson, David Boley, Philip T.K. Daniel, Tina Love, Sally Rudmann, Barry Shank, and Robert Tabita.

Ex Officio Members: Stephen Finn, Pete Hagan, Ben Jay, Bill Jones, Don Patko, Gene Smith.

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.

REVENUE NOTES:

Projected year-end revenues will total \$106,435,909, approximately \$8.38 million more than our 2006-2007 budget of \$98,056,597.

Football revenues will fall short of budget due to the greater-than-anticipated number of student football season tickets sold for the 2006 football season. Student season tickets are sold at half of the price of regular season tickets.

Revenue from athletic operations will be \$2.4 million over budget with merchandising (\$780,000) and marketing (\$258,000) exceeding expectations, and revenue from Big Ten participation in bowl games exceeding budget by \$226,975 (due to the Big Ten's second team in a BCS bowl game).

Revenue from other sources exceeded budget by \$6.4 million, due mainly because we do not budget for bowl game participation (\$4,758,485 for BCS National Championship Game) and Buckeye Club donation exceeded budget by \$1.5 million.

EXPENSE NOTES:

The Athletic Department is projecting year-end expenses at \$106,385,795.

Personnel costs will exceed budget by approximately \$1 million due to the Matta and Foster contract renegotiations and contracted bonuses paid for the BCS and Final Four.

As noted above, expenses for participation in a bowl game are not budgeted. Expenses for the BCS National Championship Game totaled \$5,025,717.

Merchandising cost of goods sold were higher, but commensurate with the increase in gross merchandise revenues earned this year.

"Unusual" expenditures are not anticipated at the time of this report; most areas are tracking to budgets.

RESULT: At this time, the Athletic Department anticipates that it will finish FY2007 with a small surplus of \$50,114 overall.

FACILITIES:

Current Projects -

The \$20 million Woody Hayes Athletic Complex expansion will be completed in June 2007.

The \$5.1 million Softball Stadium construction will begin this summer and will be completed February 2008.

Negotiations with the City of Columbus for the construction and lease of a new \$3.3 million Boathouse at Griggs Reservoir have progressed and it is anticipated to be completed in the Fall of 2009.

The \$3 million Indoor Tennis Center project which will renovate the former Sportsite building is underway and we anticipate occupying the facility in November 2007.

The \$1 million Ohio Stadium turf replacement is underway and will be completed in early June 2007.

2008-2014 Future Projects Under Consideration -

The first priority of future facility projects under consideration is the building of an Athletics Office Complex (\$30 million) and a Sports Medicine Center (\$30 million) built in cooperation with the OSU Medical Center. The Athletics Office Complex will bring together the majority of our administrators and coaches under one roof. The athletic administration and coaches' offices will move from St. John Arena and other facilities into the new Athletics Office Complex.

\$15 million expansion of the basketball auxiliary gym at the Schottenstein Center to add new Men's and Women's Basketball coaching offices, video room, team meeting area and separate basketball practice courts for each team.

Building an Indoor Track/Multipurpose facility (\$30 million) to replace a very aged French Field House and to give us another multipurpose indoor practice facility to take the schedule pressure off of the Woody Hayes Athletic Complex for indoor practice

time. In the cold months, the WHAC is used by our sport teams from 6:00 am - 12:00 midnight.

Build a Field Hockey Stadium/Football Practice Fields (\$5 million) to replace the aging Astroturf field for field hockey and both lacrosse teams. The current Astroturf field would be moved adjacent to Olentangy River Road and a new football practice field would be built in its place.

Rebuild the Stickney Outdoor Tennis Courts (\$2.5 million).

Ohio Stadium Press Box Renovations (\$1 million) to the north end media level suites.

Other Projects Under Consideration (but less priority than above) -

Golf Course Halfway House and Rest Room Renovations (\$2 million)

French Field House Renovation (\$2 million)

Purchase of the Steelwood Building (2.6 million)

Golf Course Club House/Gray Course Renovations

St. John Arena Modifications

Jack Nicklaus Museum

Ohio Stadium Plaza and Rotunda Restoration

TICKET PRICES:

The ticket prices for football were proposed and approved for \$1 increase for all categories. It was also recommended that Men's Basketball ticket prices increase \$.50 for students and \$1 for all other categories of ticket purchasers, this was also approved for the 2007-08 season. The Athletic Department has indicated that it has had a very successful year for ticket sales, but suffered some loss due to the large number of students who purchased for football and Men's basketball at a reduced rate.

Affiliated Committee: Green Committee

The Green Committee is an advisory committee to the Department of Athletics and the Athletic Council. The committee organizes and recommends a fee schedule for the OSU scarlet and gray golf courses. Membership on the committee consists of two members of the Athletic Council (Tim Gerber and T.K. Daniel), members of the Athletic Department (Ben Jay, Pete Hagan, and Chris Walsh) and James Dertinger (a member of the OSU Facilities Operations and Development Office).

During 2006-07 membership fees were adjusted with the reopening of the Scarlet Course.

4. Other Activities

- a) Athletic Council Orientation – the Athletic Council holds an annual orientation for members each year before the start of autumn quarter. The discussion involves the role, mission, and responsibilities of the Council with presentations by the Council leadership, including committee chairs, the director and associate directors of the athletic department, the faculty athletics representative, and the director of SASSO. The tradition will be continued during the 2007-08 academic year.
- b) Marketing sub-Group – during winter and spring quarters, 2007 a group of interested persons gathered to address the issue of positive media messages surrounding student-athletes at OSU. The group consisted of Athletic Council members, Athletic Department members, the FAR, and members of the University Relations Office. Of special interest was the absence of media coverage surrounding the achievement of athletes as regards overall grade point average and academic awards. The work of this group will continue into 2007-07.
- c) Faculty Athletic Representative Review – the term of the Faculty Athletic Representative is four years with an opportunity for a second and final four year term. University bylaws require a review for reappointment. The Chair of Athletic Council appointed an FAR evaluation subcommittee chaired by former AC chair Joe Gliem and consisting of three current AC faculty members (Tim Gerber, Alan Michaels, and Sharon West), two former AC faculty members (William McDaniel and Chris Zacher), the SAAB representative Emily Francis, and a member of the Athletic Department, Miechelle Willis. The subcommittee conducted personal interviews with members of the university administration with whom the current FAR would have regular contact, including President Holbrook, members of the Athletic Department, including the current and immediate past director, members and former members of the Athletic Council, and representatives from the Big Ten Conference, including Commissioner Jim Delaney, and representatives of the NCAA. In their interviews the subcommittee raised questions for the purpose of assessing the performance of the FAR relative to the duties and responsibilities of that position as defined by the NCAA and the Big Ten Conference. On the basis of the interviews the subcommittee recommended the following to the Athletic Council:
 1. That John Bruno be reappointed to a second four year term;
 2. The next FAR be appointed during the third year of Dr. Bruno's second term so that he/she can have a year to learn the rules, policies, and procedures required of the FAR position at Ohio State;
 3. The faculty salary which supports the position of the FAR should come from the President's office and not simply be a pass-through from the Athletic Department to the President's office
 4. OSU continue the practice of selecting only one FAR since it provides a more comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the total athletics

program and provides a single point of contact at the local, conference, and NCAA levels.

The subcommittee found all indications that Professor Bruno is doing an excellent job in the position and that he learns quickly, knows the rules, is readily accessible, interacts well with all constituents, and is actively and constructively involved at OSU, in the Big Ten, and in the NCAA.

Based on the positive results of the subcommittee report the Athletic Council voted unanimously to recommend John Bruno for reappointment to the position of Faculty Athletic Representative. Correspondence reflecting the vote and the recommendation was sent to President Holbrook in May, 2007.

5. Acknowledgements –

Members of the Athletic Council wish to convey their gratitude to the many professionals who worked to assist us in the performance of our work. We thank the Athletic Department representatives for their steadfast support. For their help with AC committees and projects, these 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 want to bid a fond farewell to outgoing members of the Athletic Department whose work, over the years, has been vital to AC accomplishments: Susan Henderson, Senior Athletics Director for Finance and Operations, Bill Myles, Associate Athletics Director for Sport Administration, and Richelle Simonson, Associate Athletic Director for Auxiliary Operations.

We also 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 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.

A special thank note of gratitude to those members of the Faculty Athletics Representative ad hoc evaluation committee for the time and effort invested in the assessment, recommendations, and report regarding the FAR review.

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 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, especially in a time when there was no faculty leadership carry-over from 2005-06. Every member worked with tireless effort and with determined commitment to meet Council goals.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip T.K. Daniel".

Philip T.K. Daniel, Chair
Athletic Council