

January 27, 2005

TO: University Senate Steering Committee

FROM: Joe Barr, Chair, Athletic Council

The purpose of this report is to inform the Senate of Athletic Council's agenda and activities for the 2004-2005 academic year.

Athletics Council's (AC) overall goal this year was to become more proactive in its involvement with athletics at both the level of the Provost's office and with the Department of Athletics. One example of this is the involvement of the AC Vice Chair, who is also the chair of the Academic Progress and Eligibility Committee in the regular Friday meetings between the Liaison between OOA and the Athletic Department, the Director of the Athletic Support Services Office (SASSO), the Athletic Director, the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) and representative(s) from the provost's office.

The Athletic Council has voted to change its bylaws to have regular meetings every month of the year. This is an effort to stay more current with the rapid changes in intercollegiate athletics taking place at OSU and with NCAA.

We also formed a working group in collaboration with Faculty Council to review and comment on the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) draft document "Academic Integrity in Intercollegiate Athletics: Principles, Rules and Best Practices". This committee was involved in amending COIA's draft document and we were represented at COIA's meeting at Vanderbilt on January 6 and 7. This document is under further review and will be voted on by member institutions' faculty representatives later next month. Given that this document is a set of best practices/guidelines and three NCAA bylaw proposals and that OSU already complies with most of the best practices, it is possible that we may endorse the document in principle with the caveat that we would follow the guidelines in the best interest of our student athletes and our institution.

The following is a compilation of activities of our Athletic Council subcommittees:

Academic Progress and Eligibility

The Academic Progress and Eligibility Committee (AP&E) is a standing committee of Athletic Council composed of the nine faculty members of the Council, one undergraduate student representative (from Athletic Council) and one undergraduate student athlete (elected by Student Athlete Advisory Board, SAAB). In addition, the AP&E committee includes: (a) ex-officio members of the Athletic Department (Director of Athletics, Associate Athletic Directors of Sports, Associate Athletic Director for the Student Athlete Supports Services Office, SASSO), (b) the Faculty Liaison between SASSO and the Office of Academic Affairs, and (c) the Faculty Representative to the Big Ten Conference and NCAA. Membership Chair: Joe Gliem, Members: Joe Barr, T. K. Daniel, Emily Gilbert (SAAB), Rebecca Kantor-Martin, Deb Mason (USG), William

Nelson, Deborah Nichols-Larsen, Mary Ellen Wewers, and Chris Zacher. Ex officio members:, Rick Boyages, John Bruno (FAR), Andy Geiger, Susan Henderson, Tom Hof, Heather Lyke-Catalano, Beverly Moss (OAA), Bill Myles, Kate Riffie, Richelle Simonson, and Miechelle Willis

Regular duties of the AP&E Committee include: (a) monitoring, on a quarterly basis, the grades and progress toward degree of each athletic team, (b) monitoring missed class time by each athletic team, (c) consideration of petitions on behalf of student-athletes for temporary relief from eligibility requirements imposed by OSU, (d) selection of the Big Ten Medal of Honor Awardees (one female and one male) recognized at the Annual Scholar-Athlete banquet, and (e) selection of recipients for Student-Athlete Achievement Awards recognized at monthly meetings of the Athletic Council.

The very good academic performance of our student-athletes continues to go unnoticed by many. At the end of Autumn Quarter, 873 student-athletes participating in 34 sports at Ohio State achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.00 (team CGPA ranged from 2.58 – 3.50). This compares to a CGPA of 2.88 for non student-athletes. Four hundred fifty-five student athletes (52%) had a CGPA of 3.00 or greater and 34 student-athletes (4%) had a CGPA of 4.00. Two hundred seventy-two student-athletes (30%) participate in study table and 69 student-athletes (8%) participate in a student mentoring program. The current NCAA Academic Performance Rating for Ohio State exceeds the cut point set by NCAA.

The committee also believes that an important indicator of academic success for our student-athletes is progress toward a degree. The average number of degree hours earned by 895 student-athletes during the 2003 – 2004 academic year was 41.79 hours (team earned hours to degree ranged from 35.71 – 45.54 hours). The most current six-year graduation rate for student -athletes was 67% as compared to 62% for the total student population.

The committee reviewed the history and rationale for the awarding of varsity credit. Course syllabi for all varsity credit courses were reviewed, and the committee reaffirmed its support for these courses and found them to be consistent with other participatory courses offered by the university.

The committee reviewed and supported the implementation of a new policy for student-athletes relative to study table attendance. The new policy requires all first quarter freshman student-athletes to attend study table for a minimum of 7.5 hours per week. Required study table hours are then gradually reduced based upon a student-athlete's CGPA and class rank. However, coaches have the option of requiring their student-athletes to attend more than the minimum hours included in the policy. The committee will continue to monitor the policy for any needed changes or adjustments.

The committee continues to monitor missed class time of each team due to competition. While the amount of missed class time on average is not large, some teams tend to have more missed class time than others. This is due to many factors, and thus remains an

item for continued committee monitoring. The committee hopes to develop recommendations relative to best practices that might be followed to help student-athletes study when a team is traveling.

The chairperson of AP&E has for the first time this year started attending weekly meetings relative to the admission of student-athletes. These weekly meetings are attended by the Associate Athletic Director for the Student Athlete Support Services Office, (SASSO), the Faculty Liaison between SASSO and the Office of Academic Affairs, the Faculty Representative to the Big Ten Conference and NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative, and the Director of Athletics. As a result of these meetings, the AP&E committee will begin discussions on how they might become more involved in the recruitment process for student-athletes.

Tickets, Fees, and Access

The first goal was to determine ticket prices for the coming year for football. There will be a \$1.00 increase across all ticket categories. Implementation of the staff/faculty football ticket policy is being carefully studied. Those entering the stadium with a faculty/staff ticket will be required to have a valid OSU ID. Faculty and staff should plan to assure that they have a current ID. Sale of tickets to other staff/faculty will not require an upgrade but sale of tickets to non-OSU personnel will require an upgraded, i.e. regular price ticket.

Equity and Student-Athlete Welfare

The following activities are high priority for this group -

1. Review of University data collected in compliance with the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act. In this regard the committee has been interested in investigating discrepancies in representation and salaries among coaches along gender and racial lines.
2. Revival of the "Majority of One Program." The Committee has received an in-depth report on the decline of the Majority of One Program from Rick Boyages. We are working with Rick to see if this program can be reconstituted.
3. Establishment of committees to conduct investigations in support of title IX mandates. Areas to be reviewed are equipment and supplies; tutors, coaches and support services.
4. Review recruitment policies to determine if changes need to be made to conform to city laws restricting the late night activities of minors.
5. Review of Reports by Student Athlete Advisory Board (SAAB) concerning student welfare issues. In February we will receive a report from Jennifer Carter concerning our eating disorder policies.

Finance and Facilities

1. F&F has continued to monitor the AD budget, especially studying multi-year budget projections (prepared by Susan Henderson). We believe finances look sound.
2. F&F and TFA together recommended a modest \$1 increase in per-game football ticket prices in all three categories for 05-06. This increase was approved by the full council.
3. F&F and TFA together recommended the following proposal regarding the golf course to AC: if current OSU course members do not renew their memberships for FY 06 but then wish to rejoin in FY 07, they would be asked to pay an initiation fee, the exact amount of which would be voted on in FY 06. The full council approved it (but depending on what you decide, may be asked at the Feb meeting to reconsider.).
4. F&F toured the renovated Ice Rink at its 1/19/05 meeting It also received a facilities update from Don Patko.