

Intercollegiate Athletic Committee

May 7, 2008

Minutes

Attendees: Dan Williams, Gary Gray, Dave Peterson, Jim Isenberg, Kendra Herinckx, George Rowe, Neal Zoumboukos, Anita Weiss, Curtis Haley, Anna Poponyak, Sandy Weintraub, Whitney Wagoner, Melinda Grier, Michael Moffitt, Matt Merriman, Julie Larsson

Guests: Garrett Klassy, Bev Smith, Tara Erickson

Chaired by Anita Weiss

Opening Comments – Weiss stated the next meeting which is the last meeting of 2007-2008 year will be held June 4 and topics will include a wrap up of the year with a vote from the faculty on the next IAC Chair. There will be an update on parking and the basketball arena.

Main Topics

Competitive Cheer – Weiss stated Renee Baumgartner, back in August 2007 presented the thought process of adding competitive cheer to the IAC.

Weiss discussed the decision making process to drop wrestling and to add baseball. The University needed to add a women's sport that offered more opportunities to women. One of the ideas behind adding baseball was baseball offered more scholarships so the idea of adding baseball with more scholarship would also open up the door for a women's sport with more scholarships.

Weiss also wanted to discuss the status of hiring a competitive cheer coach and any gender equity issues.

Neal Zoumboukos wanted to clarify the format used to add a women's sport. By adding baseball there are more competitive opportunities and the University wanted to add additional opportunities for women. Melinda Grier stated by adding baseball it increased the opportunities for women. She also stated the time table was moved up to add competitive cheer. Neal went on to say the University in the past would add a new women's sport every 8-9 years. Women's golf was added in 1987, women's soccer added in 1995 and women's lacrosse added in 2004. Competitive Cheer will be added 2009-2010, a much shorter timeframe than in the past. Neal wanted to add that with a new athletic director and president on the horizon the timeframe could be back to 8-9 years.

Neal spoke about an interest survey being handed out to students on campus, to people in the downtown community. The survey was also sent to high school athletic directors in Oregon. 90% of those athletic directors recommended adding competitive cheer. These athletic directors saw an increase in participation at the high school level. The University checked with the office of Civil Rights and Kilkenny made a call to the Maryland athletic director to discuss their competitive cheer program.

The NCAA states that if 10 or more schools add competitive cheer to their programs it will be considered an emerging sport. If 20 or more schools add competitive cheer it will be considered a championship sport.

There is no limitation on scholarships (opportunities). There will be 3 scholarships offered for the first year 2009-2010.

Neal felt the semantics of the name “Competitive Cheer” should be changed to something similar to “group acrobatics”. He felt the term cheer gave the impression of pomp pomp waving women but when in fact the students are extremely athletic and gymnastic.

Other women’s sports were considered but due to expenses and opportunities competitive cheer was the best fit. Other sports included but not limited to swimming, crew, water polo, equestrian and bowling. All these sports had facility issues. For example, if the University added crew the Willamette River is not suitable for it and the team would have to travel to some place like Triangle Lake to compete. In the winter the travel will be too hazardous. The skulls for crew are extremely expensive too. Competitive Cheer can use the Mo Center for training facilities and Mac Court for competition. The only large expense for competitive cheer would be the travel costs. Competitive cheer is not sanctioned by the NCAA but it does create opportunities. The competitive cheer team will remain a women’s sport and will not be co-ed unlike the spirit squad which is not considered a women’s sport.

Guest Speakers

Weiss invited Coach Smith and Coach Erickson to the IAC meeting to discuss the state of women’s sports at the University and what challenges, if any exist.

Coach Smith felt women’s basketball had the same support from the University, the AD and the academic side as did revenue generating men’s sports. She feels Mac Court and the locker rooms at Mac Court are dated and with three teams using the facility practice times are a premium. Coach Smith, Coach Kent and Coach Moore have a good working relationship and they work well with what they have. One challenge Coach Smith faces is communication to the public. She would like to see more on women’s sports and issues communicated to the public, for example Title IX.

When the addition of competitive cheer was announced Coach Smith “raised not one eyebrow but both”. She questioned and was being questioned if competitive cheer was a legitimate sport. The sport is gymnastic and not pomp pomp shakers.

Coach Smith has a total of 14 players on the women's basketball squad with 15 scholarships. Women's basketball is a head count sport.

Coach Tara Erickson stated she and her team are in a "good spot" when it comes to the support of the University, the AD and support services. She feels when a student athlete needs support of some kind it is granted to them. Coach Erickson too feels there should be more communication to the public in regards to women's sports. Coach would like to push GPA status to the forefront as her team has a high GPA. She feels this should be communicated more.

Soccer is an equivalency sport. There are 26 players on the squad with 14 scholarships granted.

Anna Poponyak, student athlete Lacrosse goalie, feels the student athletes are supported well but the student athlete needs to be more assertive and take advantage of opportunities such as job fairs, tutors and resume help. Poponyak feels the student athlete have a better relationship with their professors then other students because the student athlete needs to communicate more with the professors in regards to game schedules, missed classes, etc. Poponyak belongs to SAAC and they do community service with groups on campus. On June 1 is Quackin Action will take place. This is a program where the student athlete tries to get the professor's children to attend sporting events.

Jim Isenberg would like to see more faculty involvement in women's sports in the way of guest coaches or faculty appreciation day.

Weiss a CSWS member would too like to bridge the gap from faculty to women's sports.

Whitney Wagoner suggested a faculty mentor relationship program possibly one faculty member per team to discuss topics like career interests. Wagoner does conduct a Women in Sports Symposium.

Kendra Herinckx would like to see more programs for student athletes of color.

Michael Moffitt stressed that there should be more done in way of celebration for elite scholar athletes.

Ticket Distribution

Garrett Klassy gave an update on the new digital online ticket distribution system for student football tickets.

Klassy wanted to point out that last year the trend at the south ticket window at Autzen showed tickets were still available for all games until 2:30-3:00 pm. This trend shows the student didn't need to miss early classes to stand in line. Klassy wanted to make it clear that ASUO were the ones who decided to have a 9:00 am start time for distribution of

tickets and that the ASUO owns the tickets but the athletic department facilitates them. The athletic department should not be taking the heat on decisions the ASUO make.

The athletic department has paid for a new \$400,000 online digital distribution system this year to help streamline the process of distribution. Before the update the athletic department paid for each transaction to use software to distribute 5700 student tickets

This year the distribution of tickets will take place the Sunday before each game. The student will log on to go.ducks.com and using their student id the student can purchase the tickets online. There are 4 different time blocks set up for the students to get tickets. Freshmen will be able to log on from 9:00-11:00 am, sophomores from 11:00-1:00, juniors from 1:00-3:00, and seniors and grad. students from 3:00-5:00 pm. If the student purchase the tickets and can't use them they will have the opportunity to email the tickets back. On the Wednesday before the game students can purchase the return tickets. The students will be punished if tickets aren't used or are not emailed back. Their opportunity to purchase tickets in the future will not exist.

On game day the student's id bar code will be scanned for entrance. The id takes the place of a paper ticket. There will be no need to pick up tickets at the ticket office.

Meeting adjourns. Next IAC meeting is June 4th at the Casanova Center.