

Intercollegiate Athletic Committee Meeting

McArthur Court - Classroom

April 4, 1996

Committee Members and Guests Present: Ralph Barnhard, Ron Finley, Jim Isenberg, Bill Moos, Twinkle Morton, Karen Nelson, Kanealii Osorio, Lou Osternig, Don Peting, Lynne Rossi, Nani Sarosa, Bill Steffen, Susan Trafton, and Debbie Nankivell.

SOAR Program Update

Karen Nelson updated the committee on changes in the SOAR classes since she last met with the group in October, 1995. Karen initiated changes in the grading system which included the elimination of extra credit for student-athletes in the SOAR classes. After these changes were implemented, students received a more even distribution of grades. Karen provided copies of class evaluations, as well as a few final reports for the committee to get a better understanding of the impact the classes have had on student-athletes.

The issue of whether future classes should be set up as pass/no pass continues to be discussed. Karen and Jane DeGidio both feel strongly that the class should remain graded. Students have always had the option to take the course graded or as pass/no pass.

The UO's classes were used as a model during a recent SOAR conference. Karen again invited committee members to visit her classes next fall at Heritage Hall in the Bowerman Building.

Academic Advising & Student Services

Twinkle Morton, Director of Ed Services, led the group on a tour of the recently remodeled academic advising and student services offices at Mac Court. The improvements were made possible using revenues received from the Rose Bowl year. Twinkle outlined the services her department provides for student-athletes, which includes personal, academic, and career counseling. The department is currently staffed with Twinkle, two counselors, and one half-time GTF. Twinkle provided hand-outs showing breakdowns of student ethnicity, team GPA's, majors, grades, and a list of jobs currently held by former student-athletes. The graduation rates of our student-athletes are high among the Pac-10 schools. The department is funded by the university and the athletic department.

Wrestling Program

Ron Finley, Head Wrestling Coach, distributed this year's wrestling media guides. This is Ron's 26th year on campus and he feels that working with his team continues to be very rewarding. The members of the UO's wrestling team have a history of working hard, doing well academically, and becoming very successful. Gender equity has hurt wrestling programs throughout the country, with many schools dropping the sport. The UO has a strong wrestling program with only 9.9 scholarships available. We have some promising new recruits who will be joining the team next year.

Ron and his team raise a portion of their budget each year and at the same time, make an effort to become involved within the community.

Women's Soccer Program

Bill Steffen, Head Women's Soccer Coach, updated the group about the new women's soccer program. Bill has a number of years of experience with the University of North Carolina's highly successful women's soccer program. He plans to bring the same enthusiasm to the UO by focusing on training.

Interest in the program has been huge with three players signing letters of intent. Bill discussed the challenges involved with recruiting student-athletes to a new program. He has six scholarships available and is being conservative in using them. The team will probably consist of 20-25 student-athletes.

The first game will be on September 7th, with the season running through mid-November. For now, the team will play on a field located behind Mac Court, which will be upgraded. A new field near the Cas Center should be ready in 1997. Admission will probably not be charged at first to help get the community interested and involved in the program.

Next Meeting

Please forward any items to be included in the next meeting's agenda to Jim Isenberg.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 9th at 5:30 p.m. in the Director's Conference Room at the Casanova Center.

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