

## **Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Meeting**

Johnson Hall Conference Room

December 7, 2005

**Committee Members and Guests Present:** Renee Baumgartner, Gary Gray, Julie Haack, Michael Moffitt, Jim O'Fallon, Eric Pickard, Jim Schombert, Ed Singer, Nathan Tublitz, Whitney Wagoner, and Debbie Nankivell.

### **Role of the Faculty Athletics Representative**

NCAA regulations require each member institution's president to appoint a Faculty Athletics Representative. The FAR is to be a tenured faculty member. Jim O'Fallon has served as the UO's FAR for a number of years. The primary function of the FAR is to review data and apply the appropriate rules regarding student-athlete eligibility requirements. The FAR also plays a significant role in the NCAA and Pac-10 legislative processes by voting on legislative issues. Briefly discussed the need to have a transition plan for when Jim is no longer serving as the UO's FAR. With the proliferation of NCAA rules, the FAR is required to spend increasing amounts of time certifying eligibility for student-athletes. At the UO, the FAR also serves on the IAC and acts as a liaison between the university and athletics. In addition, as part of the mission of the IAC, Jim is expected to address the UO Senate once each year.

### **Religion in Athletics**

Discussed whether the department has a policy on how religion should be handled with student-athletes. The issue was brought up after this fall's reports of the Air Force Academy football coach requiring his team to participate in mandatory prayers. The department follows general university policies regarding students being comfortable and not being pressured to participate in any religious activity. The UO student conduct code includes the need to respect the beliefs of others and provides avenues to support students if they feel they are being coerced to participate in activities against their wishes. The committee felt it was very important that student-athletes know where they can turn if they feel coerced. The department's compliance and student services offices help fill this need as well as the advocate's office on campus.

### **Monday Morning Student Ticket Distribution**

Discussed students missing class time to stand in line to obtain tickets to upcoming athletic competitions. Suggestions for resolving this problem included ordering the tickets online and moving ticket distributions to the weekend. Student tickets were available later in the day so students did not really need to be in line for hours to obtain them.

### **COIA Report**

Nathan Tublitz is the UO's representative to the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics and is the national organization's chair this year. COIA is working closely with the NCAA on athletics reform issues. Faculty members are also involved in several national groups aimed at athletics reform.

### **Football APR's & Graduation Rates**

Discussed recent articles about this year's bowl teams along with their APR's and graduation rates. The

NCAA is aware that the formulas being used are not always accurate predictors of student-athlete academic success and may need further adjusting before penalties are levied.

**Next IAC Meeting**

Due to numerous scheduling conflicts, the date for the next IAC meeting has not yet been decided. Stay tuned for more information on the January meeting date.

dln