

## *Intercollegiate Athletics Committee/2008-2009*

The IAC met nine times during the year and discussed a wide range of topics, including the ones listed below. Minutes for the meetings are available online at <http://www.uoregon.edu/~icac/IAC.html>. A list of committee members is included at the end of this report.

### **Reports & Issues Presented by the Athletic Dept.**

#### **New Facilities Updates**

Pat Kilkenny (or another Athletic Dept. representative) presented updates at each meeting on the progress of the new basketball arena, academic learning center, and baseball field.

#### **Budget Updates**

Some discussion of the Athletic Dept. budget was presented at the orientation meeting in September, with updates at subsequent meetings. The committee recommended at its May meeting that one of the early meetings for the IAC next year (not the orientation meeting) should be devoted to a discussion of the Athletic Dept. budget.

#### **2009 Football Schedule Changes**

At the beginning of fall term, we discussed the possibility of Thursday night games for next season due to a possible ESPN deal. The committee agreed on the following: "We approve scheduling a Thursday night football game for the 2009 season, voicing the strong suggestion that it occur before the start of fall classes and voicing the concern that this not become too regular an occurrence in future years."

On Dec. 17 (2008), Pat Kilkenny asked our advice (by email) on the possibility of rescheduling the Oregon vs. Oregon State game to Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> (during the weekend between dead week and finals) to take advantage of an offer from ABC to televise the game nationally. Instructions from the Senate President, Paul van Donkelaar, were to "... gather any concerns from IAC members specifically about moving the date of the game and talk about them with the Provost. Ultimately, the President, Provost, and Athletic Director are responsible for the decision after receiving advice from the IAC, FAC, and myself." After email discussion, the views of committee members were sent on Dec. 18 to the Senate President, Provost, and Athletic Director. Nine out of 12 members who responded were more or less okay with the schedule change, although this was not considered a formal vote.

On Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, Gary Gray communicated to the committee (by email) the possibility of playing the Oregon State game on Thursday of dead week, as part of a package deal between Oregon and ESPN. The responses of committee members were forwarded to the Senate President, the head of the FAC, and the Athletic Dept. (c/o Gary Gray). Seven out of the 11 members who responded were okay with this schedule change. Again, this was not considered a formal vote.

The committee also noted at a later meeting that the donation of \$100,000 to the library from some of these fall television revenues was a commendable and appreciated move on the part of the Athletic Dept.

### **Track & Field/Commencement**

The issue of rescheduling commencement ceremonies to accommodate the NCAA Track and Field Championships was discussed through a conference call with the Provost at the November meeting. The Provost outlined the different options that were being considered. A straw vote of the committee members present indicated a preference for an earlier graduation ceremony date, although we voiced a strong recommendation that the matter needs to be considered much more carefully if it becomes a regular feature of the academic calendar, and not just a one-year-only situation. (Not too surprisingly, there also was strong support for a move to a semester system.)

### **Reports on Academic Standing**

The Academic Progress Rate (APR) was discussed in a report from Gary Gray, who explained that every UofO intercollegiate athletic team is now above the NCAA's "cut score." It was also noted that the Women's Golf program had a perfect score for the fourth year in a row.

Also, the first report of the standings for the Director's Cup, which recognizes broad-based success in athletics programs, were presented to the committee in the fall. Oregon led Division I, with most credit going to men's and women's cross country teams, but contributions also made by the football and volleyball teams.

### **Personnel Changes**

Several personnel changes in the Athletic Dept. were communicated to the IAC before they were publicly announced, including the appointments of Mike Bellotti as Athletic Director, Chip Kelly as Head Football Coach, and Paul Westhead as Women's Basketball Head Coach. We were also informed about the resignations of the Women's Golf and Softball Head Coaches. An IAC member served on the Search Committees for these positions: Suzanne Rowe, for Golf, and Janet Wasko, for Softball. The committee was also informed about the Athletic Director transition process.

## ***IAC Thematic/Informational Presentations***

### **Conversations with Coaches**

The IAC invited three head coaches to visit the committee during the year to discuss how they support academic excellence among the student-athletes in their programs. Presentations were made by George Horton (Baseball), Jim Moore (Volleyball), and Vin Lanana (Track & Field). These discussions were informative and insightful, and we encourage future committees to continue this tradition.

### **O Heroes Program**

Katie Harbert, Coordinator of Student-Athlete Development, visited one of our meetings to discuss the "O Heroes" program, a community service outreach program that is organized by the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. The student-athlete

representative on the IAC, Anna Poponyak, also added information and updates about the program at several meetings.

### **Competition Not Conflict Project (CnC)**

Jane Gordon from the Competition Not Conflict program visited the committee and described the program and its activities.

### **Fan Behavior**

Jim Bartko and Neal Zoumboukos led several discussions of fan behavior, especially for basketball and football games. They reported that the Athletic Dept. is working with the Pit Crew, Student Housing, Fraternities and Sororities, etc., to resolve issues relating to negative student behavior at games. While several of these discussions were wide-ranging, the committee generally expressed concern about this issue and support for efforts being made by the Athletic Dept., the University, and the police to solve these problems.

### **Opportunities for Introducing Majors to Student-athletes**

The issue of introducing student-athletes to the wide range of majors at the university was discussed at several meetings. Steve Stolp, Director of Sports Services, discussed the major selection process at our January meeting, covering NCAA eligibility rules, and the comparison between student-athletes and the general student population. After agreement that the IAC and the Athletic Dept. might work together to improve this process, a sub-committee was formed called the Major Engagement Committee, headed by Deb Morrison, and including Neal Zoumboukos and Jim O'Fallon. The committee reported at the May committee and will continue its work through the next academic year.

During these discussions, the committee also considered a draft statement concerning academic priorities. The following draft was discussed by the committee at its June meeting, but will be further developed during the summer and considered again during the fall.

The University of Oregon Athletic Department is steadfastly dedicated to supporting our student-athletes in both their academic and athletic endeavors. In addition to providing top- quality athletic support, we are strongly committed to helping our student-athletes receive the best possible education while enrolled at the University of Oregon. We encourage our student-athletes to pursue their preferred major. We will make our best effort to work closely with the student-athletes to schedule athletic responsibilities to avoid conflict with academic classes. In concert with the University, we will provide a wide range of academic support services, and facilitate the acquisition of academic and life skills. Our highest priority is to have every student-athlete graduate while also achieving success in his/her chosen sport.

### **Promoting Academics to Athletic Audiences**

Russ Tomlin presented an update on the second year of a project designed to use sports events and venues to promote UofO faculty and academics. Examples have included faculty award winners recognized at games and on radio coverage of games.

Other suggestions were discussed, including short videos featuring faculty/academics on Duckvision during football games, a website dedicated to athletics/academics, faculty liaisons for athletic teams, spots featuring academics during athletic broadcasts, etc.

### **Other Issues/Discussions**

#### **Interdisciplinary Social Science Major**

The committee was informed about recent discussions about an interdisciplinary major, similar to the existing major offered at the Bend campus, that would serve a range of students, including, but not exclusively, student-athletes. Discussions of the idea took place over the summer by a small committee, including representatives of the IAC, and by the whole committee at the beginning of the fall term. Karen Sprague reported that the idea has been discussed with Scott Coltrane, CAS Dean, and that a faculty group has been appointed to consider the possibility of this major in more detail.

#### **Faculty Network for Track & Field**

Former IAC member Jim Isenberg presented a proposal to organize a faculty network for Track and Field “..to facilitate greater understanding and interaction between the UO faculty and the Track and Field Program.” A committee was formed (including Isenberg, Richard Taylor, and Colleen Wrenn) to develop a network of interested faculty, who would develop this relationship in various ways.

#### **COIA By-laws Discussion**

Proposed by-laws for the COIA was discussed at the IAC meeting on Wed., Oct. 15. Generally, the committee found no specific problems with the by-laws. The discussion included the following (with clarifications provided by Nathan Tublitz):

- finances of the organization.
- tenure of membership.
- the kinds of actions that the organization might become involved in.
- suggestion that the organization include all Division I schools, not just Division IA.

### **Intercollegiate Athletics Committee**

#### **2008-2009 Members**

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2010

2010  
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