

ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE – 2009-10

Despite being the Interim Athletic Director for less than a month, I believe it is important to provide a report from the Athletic Department.

There has been a lot of news about the Athletics Department, much of it positive, but also a significant amount of negative publicity.

Hopefully, as we move forward, most of the public attention can be about the positive things going on in the department regarding the exceptional accomplishments of the student-athletes athletically, academically, and as productive citizens.

There has been plenty of good work being done both in the classroom and on the playing field. We are enormously proud of a large majority of the students and what they accomplish. Student-athletes are getting oriented to the John E. Jaqua Academic Center for Student Athletes and the great opportunities that this building and its staff provide.

The O Heroes program provides opportunities for the student-athletes to serve our community in health, education and service. The program has logged 640 hours of community service this year, collected 35,000 lbs. of food for Samoan Relief, planted trees, participated in a campus clean-up, and many more community service activities.

Life Skills has organized a program regarding character education facilitated by the guest presence of Byron Hurt, a documentary filmmaker focusing on prevention of sexual assault and domestic violence on our campus. Two staff members will take MVP (Men Against Violence) training and then use what they've learned to provide year-long activities for our student-athletes and beyond. We are looking into opportunities to collaborate with the office of the Dean of Students on many other student life activities.

The search for the new Director of Athletics is underway. The Committee has been appointed. A new Athletics Director will hopefully be hired by the end of the summer.

The Department of Athletics will be making a gift of \$100,000 to the Knight Library this year, as has been the case in recent years.

The department's mission statement has been developed and discussed with the Senate President and the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee. This provides a foundation for actions based on the stated purpose of athletics as an integral part of university and its overall mission.

Our Diversity Plan is currently being developed by a committee called the Athletics Diversity Action Plan Team (ADAPT). The group meets regularly to discuss the plan and its implementation. With the assistance of Cris Cullinan, Associate Director of Organizational Development & Training, ADAPT created a staff satisfaction survey which has been administered. Feedback will be compiled and incorporated into the Strategic Action Plan. Additionally data from the survey will be communicated to the leadership and all staff so they are aware of the results of the survey. ADAPT applied for and received a grant for a NCAA Diversity Training Workshop. The workshop took place on May 12th and was facilitated by NCAA trainers. The 4-hour training was attended by 60 administrators and coaches. A 2-hour training for a group of student-athletes was also conducted.

We have had some outstanding academic performances by our student-athletes. Highlighted by Women's Basketball player Amanda Johnson, who was named 2010 Pac-10 Conference Women's Basketball All-Academic First Team, as well as 2009-10 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America® University Division second team, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Other outstanding academic recognitions include sophomore Garrett Simm being named to the Pac-10 Conference Men's Basketball All-Academic Second Team, as well as 16 indoor track and field student-athletes being named to the MPSF 2010 all-academic team. Cyrus Hostetler, an accomplished track field athlete in the javelin and an equally excellent student, has been nominated for an NCAA post-graduate scholarship.

Phase II of PK Park has been completed, with the baseball team competing this season in the completed facility. An agreement has been reached with the Eugene Emeralds so that a short-season pro team can remain in Eugene. The UO baseball team has had marked improvement this year and has been ranked by all the major polls at some point this year. There is a strong likelihood that the team will make post-season play.

Matthew Knight Arena construction is still on-time. The deadline for ticket deposits was April 30th, with the deadline for UO Faculty/Staff and Athletic Department Staff to make their seating deposits May 21st. The building will be open and ready for use for the start of Pac-10 conference games this season. Dana Altman has been selected as the new men's basketball coach and is assembling his staff soon.

On the field of play we've experienced some great success this year, including the women's indoor track & field team winning the National Championship and the football team winning the Pac-10 Conference Championship and playing in the Rose Bowl. The women's cross country team finished 9th and the men finished 2nd in the nation. The women's volleyball team went to the Sweet 16 in the championship tournament and the women's basketball team had a much-inspired season. Men's golf is currently ranked #4 in the nation and women's golf has qualified for NCAA Championships. Our new varsity program, Team Stunts and Gymnastics, finished 3rd at the NCA Championship; softball is currently ranked in the top 20 nationally and men's and women's track and field is ranked 2nd and 3rd in the nation respectively. Both the women's and men's teams won the Pac-10 Track & Field Championships. The University of Oregon will host the NCAA Track & Field Championships in June and continue the tradition in Hayward Field as Track Town, USA.

There have been no major NCAA violations to report this year in any sport.

The Intercollegiate Athletic Committee continues to be an important advisory group to the Athletics Department. Given the changes in leadership of the Athletics Department, the charges and responsibilities of the IAC need to be revisited and properly implemented.

Submitted by Lorraine Davis, Interim Athletics Director
May 20, 2010