

2-16-2009

Attachment B: Athletics Council Interim Report for Faculty Senate, February 16, 2009

Athletics Council

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ATTACHMENT B

Athletics Council Interim Report for Faculty Senate

February 16, 2009

Submitted by Mike Sincoff, Chair, Athletics Council

The Athletics Council met in September, October, and January. At the meetings, we've heard from the Athletics Director, both Senior Associate Athletics Directors, Head Coaches and team captains from men's basketball, women's soccer, and volleyball, and from our two NCAA FARs. We've been attended regularly by representatives from student government and SAAC and reciprocated SAAC's attendance by attending all of their meetings. We've scheduled additional coaches and team captains, and the President of WSU for future meetings. We are attempting to schedule the Head of the Horizon League. Relationships between the AC and the Athletic Department are excellent as they are between AC and SAAC.

On February 14 we held the first of three "Pre-Game Lectures" as part of our Pre-Game Lecture Series being held on February 14, 21, and 28 prior to home men's basketball games. This is the second year for this series. Our hope is to make it annual. Speakers this year are Beth Sorensen, Dan Krane, and Mike Raymer. The series introduces attendees to a setting where they can find WSU academics and athletics in the same venue. Our hope is that people who come to a basketball game might learn something about our academic side; people who might not come to a basketball game might do so if they were led there by an academic event.

AC Steering Committee for 2008-2009:

Mike Sincoff, Chair

Dan Krane, Vice Chair

Steve Fortson, FAR

Beth Sorensen, FAR

Dave Reynolds, Biomedical, Industrial, and Human Factors Engineering

Anthony Smerk, President, SAAC

The Athletics Council has five principal action committees whose updates follow:

Academic Affairs Committee Update 1/30/09

Chaired by Karen Lahm. Since the beginning of AY 2008-2009, our committee met on October 9, 2008. At this meeting we discussed several issues. We examined Spring 2008 grades reports with Judy Chivers. Judy noticed no "red flags" with grades for the Spring 2008 quarter. New information was that she is working on an "electronic" grade reporting system versus the old "yellow card" system we currently have in place. Grade report information was disseminated and discussed at the October 31, 2008 UAC meeting. We also discussed fifth-year eligibility issues involving student-athletes wishing to turn pro. The Academic Affairs Committee unanimously agreed that decisions on granting fifth-year scholarships should be left up to them and not the entire Athletics Council. Lastly, we provided information for the Athletics Council Chair regarding our committee's needs with the impending switch to semesters. The most pressing issues in regards to that subject were: 1) the need for more advisors campus-wide; 2) eligibility of Spring athletes in post-season play; 3) fewer internship and co-op experiences for students resulting from the shorter break between semesters; and 4) the missed class schedules

for Fall quarter athletes. The Chair was sent full minutes from this meeting and they are available for full perusal. The Committee will meet regularly through the end of the year and will consider: APR issues, NCAA issues with students who turn pro, and grade reports and fifth-year eligibility.

On February 14, 2009, the Academic Affairs Committee presented approximately 180 Certificates of Academic Recognition to student-athletes, team managers, and team trainers who had achieved GPAs of 3.0 or higher.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee Update 2/10/09

Chaired by Dan Krane. There has not been much need for action by this committee so far this year. We have considered what changes would need to be made to those documents in the event of a transition from quarters to semesters. We will be interested in reconciling the current difference between the AC and Faculty Senate constitutions regarding the number of Faculty Senate representatives to the Athletics Council when the Senate begins its quadrennial review of its constitution later this year.

Diverse Student Athlete Advocacy Committee Update 2/13/09

Chaired by Steve Fortson. The committee met once during the fall quarter and discussed the 2007-2008 year-end committee report, which details several scholastic recommendations for diverse student athletes. The committee also reviewed the 5-year Diversity plan submitted to the NCAA in 2003 as a part of the certification process. Additionally, the committee looked at the potential impact of the proposed semester transition on diverse student athletes. The committee did not identify any impact that pertained to diverse student athletes. The committee will meet during Winter Quarter and again during Spring.

Gender Equity Committee Update 2/16/09

Chaired by Mary Kenton. The GEC has met three times during the Academic Year. It is working through the 2008 EADA Report, comparing numbers to the 2007 report. Beth Sorensen (WSU FAR and Assistant Professor of Nursing and Health) and Mo Cooper (Senior Associate Athletics Director) have provided the GEC with some very interesting trends from data collected from previous EADAs. Bill Rickert (Associate Provost) has been added to this committee since the University must sign-off on the Five Year Report and any financial implications. We are making good progress in assessing our present Title IX situation. We'll probably meet at least twice a month until the end of the year.

Student Welfare Committee Update 2/13/09

Chaired by Steve Fortson. The Student Welfare committee met once during the Fall quarter and discussed the 2007-2008 year-end report. Some of the ongoing issues discussed were the student-athlete exit surveys. It was decided by the committee, that the survey needed to be revised. It was also decided that a second survey should be created for returning student-athletes. There were also reports from sports medicine personnel informing the committee on the status of the drug-testing program. The committee also discussed the current status of the Life Skills program. The issue of moving to semesters was also discussed and the committee was unable to foresee any glaring student welfare issues related to the switch. The committee will meet during Winter and Spring quarters.