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University Athletics Council Steering Committee, 2011-2012 Year End Report

Athletics Council

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ATTACHMENT ____

University Athletics Council Steering Committee, 2011-2012 Year End Report

Chair: Lawrence J. Prochaska, Frederick A. White Distinguished Professor of Professional Service, Professor and Vice Chair of Education, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Vice Chair: Jeffrey John, Associate Professor of Communication

At-large member of the Athletics Council: Mill Miller, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences

Athletics Director: Bob Grant (ex officio, non-voting)

Past Chair: Dan E. Krane, President of the Faculty and Professor of Biological Sciences

Introduction:

The Steering Committee of the University Athletics Council is charged with: establishing Athletics Council committees, appointing members to Athletics Council committees, preparation of agenda for Athletics Council meetings, and review of the annual budget for the Athletics Department. The Steering Committee of the Athletics Council traditionally meets one week prior to each of the eight regularly scheduled meetings of the Athletics Council as well in June to prepare its final report.

Activities of the Athletics Council:

The Athletics Council is the primary point of interaction between the faculty and staff of the University and the Athletics Department. Year end reports are summarized below and copies of each report are included.

The Gender Equity committee of the Athletics Council reviewed Athletics Department budget with an eye towards examining equity in spending for men's and women's teams. The committee found many improvements in the past year. There are now lights on the softball field with permanent restrooms and the soccer field is fully turfed and has changing areas and restrooms. The biggest problem that the Gender Equity committee found was there was a lack of compliance in strict headcount proportionality in scholarship funds (women receiving much more than men); however, one root cause is the sport scholarship guidelines issued by NCAA which favors higher number of scholarships for women's teams than men's teams. There also in salary imbalance in women's and men's administrative salaries and perks. The committee will work over the summer to develop a survey for student-athletes to be given in Fall, 2012.

The Academic Affairs committee approved 19 fifth year scholarships for a total of \$120,495. Student-athletes continued to have a GPA of greater than 3.0 (for the 29th consecutive quarter) and an average GPA higher than the average WSU student population in each quarter of 2011-12. More than 131 athletes, 16 spirit squad members, and 40 student-trainers were recognized by the Athletics Council and the Athletics Department for maintaining GPAs above 3.0 at half time of a men's basketball game in the winter quarter.

The Steering Committee asked the Administration for financial details of the Rinzler project and asked Gender Equity to audit utilization of the facilities for Fall quarter, 2012. Salient details are

attached and the Gender Equity Committee found that the facility was being used as proposed (mostly for student activities). The Steering Committee asked the Athletics Department to provide the Council with a report on the Department's standing in the Horizon League McCafferty Trophy (all sports competition) for the past five years (attached). The committee also solicited the Athletics Department to provide team by team missed classes analysis for the past five years and the data showed that there was no dramatic increase in student athlete's classroom absences due to athletic competition (attached).

The Constitution and by-laws committee of the Athletics Council recommended a number of minor changes to the by-laws to accommodate the quarter-semester transition.

The Student Welfare Committee reviewed the exit interview process. Exit interviews will still go through Growth Dynamics for surveying. One survey will go to student-athletes who have exhausted eligibility and another will go out to returning student-athletes. The committee also reviewed Athletic Training's Drug Testing Program. The Department's Life Skills program is progressing satisfactorily.

The Diversity Committee reviewed the 5 year Minority Opportunity plan which consists of graduation rates, retention, and the percentage of diverse student athletes. The Diverse Student-Athlete and SAAC reception at President's house will take place on May 14 with approximately 75 attendees.

Two *ad hoc* committees of the Athletics Council include mechanisms to promote community and student attendance at Wright State athletic events. They are the "Blackboard to Backboard Challenge" where students entered the names of faculty and staff that motivated them to attend a men's or women's basketball game and the "Pregame Lecture Series". Approximately 170 entries were received in the Blackboard to Backboard program and a refined program next year will target four specific men's and women's games. There were two Pregame Lectures by Dr. Anderson from Liberal Arts and Dr. Klingbeil from Computer Science with approximately 120 people in attendance.

Summary:

The Athletics Council is focused on the academic success and well being of Wright State student athletes. This is clearly occurring with continuing success. One concern that the Council has expressed is a University missed class policy for student athletes. In the coming year, the Council will work with the Senate to write and pass a policy which gives student athletes on trips for competition excused absences from missed classes. Other issues the Council will address are the Blackboard to Backboard and Pregame lecture programs. Benchmarks will be set to monitor the success of the programs. For the B2B program, the Council will identify faculty with large classes to encourage students to attend athletics events. The President of the Faculty will attempt to have the program announced during Freshman Convocation and in freshman seminars to stimulate a culture of student attendance at WSU athletic events. Attempts will be made to track people who attend the Pregame Lecture series.