Minutes for IAC meeting 9/10/2008

Members, ex officio members present

-Swint Friday (Faculty Athletic Representative), Frank Spaniol, Kathy Deis, George Tintera, -Raul Prezas, Marilyn Spencer, Jackie Hamilton, Ann Degaish, Benibo Bilaye, Robert Nelson, Margaret Lucero, Kathy Funk-Baxter

Athletic Department Representatives:

Scott Street, Scott Lazenby, Jennifer Baker, Ed Posaski, Carol Blackmar, Mark Bohling and Arthur Haas

Swint Friday called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. The agenda outline, the list of membership for the council, the nonvoting members of the council and the University rule that outlines the charge of the Intercollegiate Athletic Council (IAC) were passed out to everyone. Pages of Athletic Compliance manual related to the charge of the Council, as well as, duties for the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) were also passed out. The manual has not been updated since 2005. It was noted that this is one of the items that need to be addressed in this coming year.

It was noted that the Council will be meeting twice each semester. Last year, the Council met once in spring 2008 for the academic year due to the Provost’s position being filled after the fall semester had begun. A second meeting in the spring did not happen because of the NCAA investigation.

It was discussed that for the Council to be functional, more than one meeting is needed in the academic year and there should be a follow through on requested items by Council members. One member mentioned that items he requested from last year had still not been received. Swint would work to resolve this situation. The Interim Athletic Director expressed his desire to be transparent and responsive to the Council.

A proposal to form subcommittees: Academic, Compliance, and Budget and Title IV were handed out. Swint had asked for volunteers before the meeting and assigned some members and other university representatives to the various subcommittees. Swint also assigned a member from the Athletic department to serve as the coordinator for each of the sub-committees.

It was motioned and approved that only a voting member of the Council could be the chair of a subcommittee. The person could not be a representative from the athletic department due to the Council’s charge of oversight of athletics. Each subcommittee would elect their own chair from voting members. It was also noted that the word “subcommittees” was not an appropriate name, since these should be committee assignments. Swint is still accepting requests to change committee membership or input through next week.

It was also mentioned that the newly formed committees would need some guidance on their charge. Swint would work towards giving some more input to this and hoped that the committees would start to formulate their charges after they start meeting.
It was agreed that the Council would meet twice during the semester to discuss issues and get reports from these newly formed committees.

There was a discussion that the Athletic representatives assigned to committees should be knowledgeable on athletic issues. Members requested that information on NCAA rules and guidelines be available to them so they can become more knowledgeable on issues such as athletic budget, etc. Swint said the athletic representative would provide the NCAA web address to members who would like to search for information. NCAA rules and guidelines are extensive, and it would be difficult to pinpoint all the needed information into a summary document.

There was a discussion about the need for the Council to be more effective. Looking at materials and documents and getting reports of actions that have already happened was not the effective way of providing oversight. The Athletic Department would also need to be willing to share information before decisions are made such as budget planning information and be more open so the Council would be active in participating in the oversight of athletics. There was a concurrent agreement to this direction.

Introduction of Representatives from Athletic Department

Scott Street, Interim Athletic Director, reported on his charge to work on communication and accountability for the athletic department. He has only been with the University for less than a month and has had one departmental meeting to start the process of better communications and expectations.

Mark Bohling, Assistant Director for Operations and Facilities, reported there had been a planning session for a new tennis facility at the Nile and Ennis Joslin property. At this time, they are planning for 12 courts with 6 devoted to instructional needs and 6 for athletic practices, with the need for all 12 at times for athletic competition events. Budget is not available or identified for the athletic portion or has there been a funding identified to build a comprehensive tennis facility. It was mentioned that there are HEF funds for the instructional portion of the courts and not using tuition revenue bonds for this project.

Mark also reported that planning is under way for the move to the Wellness Center in late December or January. It is likely that several of the sports will stay in Classroom East. Training will also stay at the field house until there is space available in the new Nursing and Kinesiology facility. The academic services for athletes will stay in Classroom East until they can move to Glasscock or their designated location when decided.

Scott Lazenby, Associate Athletic Director and Compliance Officer, reported that the beginning of the fiscal year has been busy getting athletes certified for eligibility and squad lists. He mentioned that there are still issues with past athletes competing and not being actually eligible due to errors in paperwork or paperwork not being filed. There will be more reporting of NCAA violations in the coming months. It was also reported that most programs have violations, usually secondary in nature, that were due to complexity and changing rules. This is a normal occurrence in athletic affairs.
It was also noted that there has been a change in reporting structure for compliance and academic services. These two offices report to Academic Affairs. An additional person has been hired for helping with educational efforts, training, and monitoring to strengthen the compliance efforts. The compliance manual will need to be revised along with other items being addressed that were identified in a recent internal audit of athletic compliance. Part of Scott's duties is to work with the FAR and the provost office to keep them informed on investigations, issues, as well as, getting better monitoring and compliance systems in place.

Jennifer Baker, Athletic Academic Services Coordinator, reported on the activities in which her department is involved. They are looking for better coordination efforts between the academic advisors and those involved in admission-related duties. They were asking departments to work directly with them and not the coaching staff. More coordinating efforts will be put in place to take advantage of the services offered in other areas of campus for the athletes. Example of this is athletes being required to attend orientation sessions. There was also discussion about plans to work on a cohort for athletic freshman seminar groupings. They will discuss this with Core Curriculum for design and implementation. Study Hall time would be mandatory for athletes and they look forward to working with faculty on athlete’s academic progress monitoring. They will be asking athletes to get the faculty to sign a form at the beginning of the class meeting that will help communicate the athletes competitive schedule, etc. Later in September, they would invite academic advisors to go over some of the plans being made for athletic academic success.

Kathy Funk-Baxter, member of the Athletic Compliance oversight task force, gave a report of how things were progressing with the NCAA investigation. Trent Hill and Swint Friday make up the rest of the task force membership, which was formed by the President to address athletic administration issues and oversee the NCAA response. A timeline of plans for meeting the NCAA investigation requirements was passed out. The University’s response is due October 2008 with a tentative meeting date with the NCAA infractions committee on December 5, 2008. The task force is meeting weekly to address issues and stay on top of the response for NCAA. The first action the task force implemented was to recommend a change in reporting structure for compliance and academics. The task force has hired new personnel under the new structure and has been overseeing athletic administration issues. There is a need for the IAC to be more involved in oversight and to be better informed on athletic issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

Minutes recorded by Kathy Funk-Baxter