

IAC Meeting
Tuesday, November 19, 2013, 3:30 pm
Faculty Lounge, School of Law

Minutes

Present: Sam Dotters-Katz, Bill Harbaugh, Robert Illig, Kurt Krueger, Valerie Lawson, Laura Leete, Haley Rosenthal, K.C. Safley, and Glen Waddell, members; Jim O'Fallon, FAR; Rob Mullens, Jody Sykes, Athletic Department; Steve Stolp, Dietrich Moore, Jennie Leander, and Nathan Tublitz, visitors.

Absent: Mac MacGregor, Jennifer Ellis, Jennifer Freyd, Andrew Karduna, David Koranda, Jeffrey Measelle, Margie Paris, Lena Macomson, and Matthias Vogel.

General discussion was held regarding whether the meetings of this committee are open to the public and, specifically, attendance at this meeting by former committee member, Nathan Tublitz. Professor Tublitz stated that he was invited to attend by a current committee member. The consensus was that Professor Tublitz was allowed to stay until the confidential discussion portion of the meeting. Guests to be invited to future meetings will be decided by committee majority vote.

Services for Student Athletes

Steve Stolp has a Ph.D. in Education and he has been the Executive Director of Services for Student Athletes (SSA) since 1998. The Services for Student Athletes academic support program is not a part of the Department of Athletics; as the Executive Director, Steve Stolp reports to Lorraine Davis, Special Assistant to the President. Dr. Stolp introduced Jennie Leander, Senior Associate Director, and Dietrich Moore, Associate Director, who accompanied him to the meeting.

This presentation was also made to the IAC at its meeting on November 8, 2011 and at the orientation meeting on September 19, 2012.

The NCAA has mandated advising and tutoring for student-athletes at all Division 1 institutions. Prior to January, 2010, SSA was housed in an 8,000 square foot space in the Mac Court Annex and served primarily at-risk students. All other student-athletes attended timed study hall sessions.

By January, 2014, SSA will have been in the 40,000 square foot John E. Jaqua Academic Center for Student Athletes for four years where the program serves approximately 420 student-athletes. SSA has four full-time and three part-time Learning Specialists, three of whom have their Ph.D. Although advising for majors is done by the academic departments, SSA has five Academic Advisors to whom students are assigned by sport and meet with individually on a weekly schedule.

The relocation of SSA to the new building has changed the tutoring model and made the program more visible on campus. In the four years that the Jaqua has been open, UO has had 13 Academic All-Americans named, compared with a total of 46 in prior years.

The ratio of tutors to student athletes is the highest in the PAC-12, with approximately 75 tutors each working 20-25 hours per week. Many of the tutors are retired teachers, whereas others are junior and senior university students, making SSA the largest employer of students on campus. Each cohort of tutors is paired with a Learning Specialist and an Academic Advisor. Tutors at UO are subject-specific or work with student athletes to improve study skills. All freshmen and transfer students meet with a tutor a minimum of 8 hours per week and there is an average of more than 1,700 tutor appointments scheduled per week, primarily for core coursework. There are 55 tutor rooms and student-athletes meet weekly with their advisors. Thereafter, the amount of time a student-athlete spends in the Jaqua Center is relative to his or her grade level and grade point average. Drop-in support for students is also available in a lab setting. The tutors keep a notes system on their meetings with student athletes and provide reports which are discussed at a weekly staff meeting. Tutors also meet weekly with the Athletics Compliance staff.

SSA also works with campus departments for math testing and evaluation, monitoring degree progress, and participating in on-campus recruiting and visits by prospective student-athletes and their families. Students with questions about learning disability testing are referred to UO Disability Services. Academic department and Career Center advisors attend the SSA staff meetings and these weekly meetings often include other invited guests from campus.

To remain eligible for competition, student-athletes must pass a minimum of 6 credits per term and 36 credits per academic year. 40% of student-athletes declare a major by the end of their second year on campus. For those who are undecided, a Major Exploration Night event to familiarize student athletes with the majors offered at UO is presented each year.

SSA does not track class attendance, although the Football program verifies some attendance on its own. SSA produces mid-term grade reports based on information received from instructors. Intervention is done if a student's GPA falls below 2.5.

The Student-Athlete Development program, coordinated by Katie Harbert, develops activities and events for student-athletes in several areas, such as transitional programs, mentorship and job training, community outreach opportunities, and life skills development. The Art of the Athlete course connects student-athletes who have an interest in art with the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art.

At the conclusion of Dr. Stolp's presentation, all non-voting attendees were excused. No minutes were taken during the remainder of the meeting.