

Meeting of the Intercollegiate Athletic Committee November 8, 2011

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nathan Tublitz.

Introduction of those attending: Molly Bacon, Bill Harbaugh, Jeremy Hedlund, Kurt Kruger, Donna Laue, Deanna Linville, Leah Middlebrook, Madonna Moss, Dev Sinha, Glen Waddell, and Eric Wiltshire members; Rob Mullens, Jim Bartko, Gary Gray, Jamie Moffitt, and Lisa Peterson, Department of Athletics; and guests Stephen Stolp and Jennie Leander.

Services for Student Athletes: Stephen Stolp, Executive Director of Services for Student Athletes, and Jennie Leander, Senior Associate Director of SSA.

Stephen Stolp was interviewed by the UO Athletics Task Force in 2004. At the time, degree progress parameters were changing nationally. GPA was still a benchmark, but NCAA had implemented an academic progress rate that student athletes had to meet to remain eligible for competition.

At the time, the SSA was providing basic level service in the 8,000 square feet of space allocated to the program in Esslinger Hall. Student athletes checked in for study hall and there were limited tutors available for subject-specific tutoring.

Jump forward to 2011; the staff of Services for Student Athletes now occupies the Jaqua Academic Center and is better able to serve all student athletes, not just the at-risk students. All incoming student athletes are assessed and there is a structured study hall program in place. There are 55 tutor rooms and student athletes meet weekly with their advisors. The tutors keep a notes system on their meetings with student athletes and provide weekly reports.

SSA has 7 learning specialists, 4 full-time and 3 part-time; 3 have their Ph.D. SSA is the largest student employer on campus with 75 tutors each working 20-25 hours per week. The ratio of tutors to student athletes is the highest in the PAC-12. Tutors at UO are subject-specific or work with student athletes to improve study skills.

To improve study skills, a one-credit library research class is offered. There is an introductory transition to UO course for freshmen and transfer students and a Major Exploration Night event to familiarize student athletes with the majors offered at UO.

In the two years that the Jaqua has been open, UO has had 11 Academic All-Americans named, compared with 43 total in prior years.

The Services for Student Athletes program has become more visible on campus. When the program was located in Esslinger, people wondered, "Where is SSA?" Now that the program is housed in a glass box, it is much more noticeable.

Efforts have increased to help student athletes integrate with faculty. They are encouraged to visit their professors during office hours and to keep their instructors informed of time conflicts.

In summary, all the charges in the Athletics Task Force proposal #11 are being met.

Q & A:

Is the ongoing monitoring creating a culture of dependency? Scaling the structured study halls based on GPA offers the more academically successful student athletes less monitoring.

Is it difficult for student athletes to change majors? It's comparable to the difficulty encountered by all students. They must be eligible in their current major to transfer out and they must be able to become eligible in their new major.

What can the SSA do better? The SSA needs to work on finding ways to get student athletes graduated after they have completed their eligibility. GSR = 80%. 20% do not graduate for various reasons – some can't afford the cost of tuition, some may have relocated and some may need a faculty mentor. There are NCAA restrictions regarding post-eligibility awards. The President's working group is looking into reducing the legislation surrounding post-eligibility.

The SSA program could be used as a model for Pathways and other mainstream student programs. There was collaboration between Athletics and journalism students; joint gifts funded the seminar. Nathan proposed brainstorming with Steve to create additional partnerships.

Compliance as it pertains to academics: Gary Gray, Senior Associate Athletic Director for Compliance & Academic Services

The NCAA has 400 pages of rules pertaining to compliance and academics and they are modified constantly. Coaches identify their recruits and the Department of Athletics receives more than 1,000 transcripts yearly as early as the students' 5th semester or junior year for evaluation of core classes and test scores. The NCAA produces a "Handbook for Student Athletes" to help students and parents plan ahead and select classes to fulfill their requirements. The required high school core classes have been increased from 12 to 16 and the time frame has been shifted; students must now have completed 10 of those classes by the start of their senior year. To be eligible, NCAA is increasing the required GPA for high school graduates from 2.0 to 2.3. Junior college transfer students will have to have a 2.5 GPA. UO specifies that a student cannot remain with a GPA lower than 2.0 and progress toward a degree must be made.

All borderline students – not just student athletes – are vetted by the Department of Admissions committee to see if they can be admitted as a special admit. There usually 20 or so special admits per year who have NCAA eligibility, but who do not meet UO admission requirements.

If admitted, recertification of each special admit student is required each term (3 times per year at UO, 2 times per year at schools on the semester system) in order for the student to remain eligible for the next term. This requires a fast turnaround between Winter and Spring terms as there are only 5 days in which to complete the evaluations because grades aren't posted until the

Tuesday before Spring term begins. After review by several staff members from the Registrar's office and Compliance in the Department of Athletics, the forms are signed off by the FAR.

There is focus on at-risk students and NCAA intends to increase penalties on APR that drops below 930 using a 4 year rolling average. If a school is now below 930, a plan must be submitted detailing how it will rise to meet that figure. Our Men's Basketball figure will be low for the next couple of years because of the number of student athletes who transferred because of the head coaching change.

Federal graduation rates are calculated by the percentage of a cohort of freshmen entering in Fall term and attending for 6 years. Transfer students are not counted. The current statistics do not include any students who accessed SSA in the Jaqua Academic Center.

Students who have been admitted to the University of Oregon often arrive on campus early to take classes in summer term in order to accrue credits so that they will be able to graduate by the end of their eligibility.

Compliance is easier if we have more choices of majors because happier students are easier to manage, however since Measure 5, major choices are fewer.

Meeting adjourned.