

MEMORANDUM

June 28, 2006

To: Tamara Machmut-Jhashi
Secretary to the University Senate

From: Robert Stewart
Chair, Senate Athletics Committee

Re: annual report from the Senate Athletics Committee

I assumed the duties of Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) and the chair of the Senate Athletics Committee on January 20, 2006. A backlog of tasks awaited me and required my immediate attention. Among these were the following:

- Obtain IRB approval to permit OU athletes to participate in a study being conducted by the NCAA. This survey, entitled, Goals, Opportunities, Aspirations and Learning of Students (GOALS) focused on the experiences of student-athletes across the country. We will receive copies of the results later and anticipate that this information will be useful in reviewing the experiences of student-athletes at OU.
- Eligibility forms for many teams needed to be reviewed and completed so our teams could participate in conference competitions.

Although I was appointed to be a member of the Athletics Committee during the Fall 2005 semester to fill the seat of a committee member who was on sabbatical, the committee did not convene. After the backlog of tasks was resolved, I contacted the members of the committee to inquire about the past practices of the committee. A series of frank and interesting exchanges followed. A number of meetings with Interim Athletic Director Greg Kampe and Senior Associate Athletic Director Tracy Huth were conducted to discuss these exchanges and how they related to the official charge of this committee.

The committee met on April 17, 2006 to review our official charge and identify specific tasks that would be undertaken during the 2006-2007 academic year. During this meeting the following decisions were made:

- Committee meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month in the academic year.
- During the 2006-2007 academic year these dates will be Sept 11, Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11, Jan 15, Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 9. These meetings will be held at 1:00 pm unless committee members indicate that changes to their calendars require meeting at another time.
- The committee will receive regular reports from the Athletic Director (AD) concerning plans and initiatives under consideration by OU athletics.
- The following reports were distributed to all committee members and will be reviewed during the 2006-2007 academic year:
 - Student-Athlete Exit Interview Reports from 2003-04 and 2004-05
 - Summary statements of the nine (9) plans of action associated with NCAA review

- Summary statements of the Gender Equity and Minority Opportunity Plans
- Institutional reports to NCAA from 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005
- The chair was directed to contact the secretary of the Senate Steering Committee to inquire about the identities of the two unnamed student representatives and the one unnamed external community for our committee. The chair was encouraged by the secretary to invite individuals we felt would contribute positively to the Senate Athletics Committee. Based on this information and the committee's discussion on April 17th, the chair contacted Nicole Piggott, incoming president of the Student-Athlete Council and Kim Shultz, currently president of this group to invite them to join the Senate Athletics Committee as student representative. Hank Mittelstaedt was invited to join the committee representing the external community. All three individuals accepted the invitation.
- Other objectives identified by the committee to be undertaken in the 2006-2007 academic year include the following:
 - The committee is interested in learning about plans to re-organize athletics at OU. In particular we are interested in leaning more about the role of the Senior Woman Administrator in athletics.
 - The committee is interested in learning more about the graduation rates of our student-athletes. In particular, we want to discuss what the NCAA refers to as our current "athletic progress rate" and to know what it means to have teams posting unsatisfactory APRs.
 - The committee is interested in learning about any areas of concerns that may have been identified during the recent certification review. Items pertaining to gender equity will be reviewed in September and October of 2006-2007.