

## 2003-2004 ANNUAL REPORT

### Senate Athletics Committee

William Macauley, Chair

The Senate Athletics Committee met three times during the past academic year. Sheldon Gordon and Satish Walia both from Biological Sciences (College of Arts and Sciences) served as the faculty representatives, as did Edward Farragher (School of Business Administration). Hank Mittelstaedt (Attorney) served his third year as the external community representative appointed by President Russi. Carmen Etienne (Registrar's Office) served as the AP Assembly representative. The Student Congress representative to the committee was unable to attend any of the meetings this past year, again. When the committee was formed the Athletics Director, Jack Mehl was appointed, ex-officio. Finally, as the Faculty Athletics Representative I was designated the chair of the committee.

The charge to the Senate Athletics Committee is as follows:

1. To advise the Athletics Director and the President on matters related to the administration of the university's athletics programs;
2. To receive timely and regular reports from the Athletics Director and the President on current and proposed plans and policies that affect the athletics programs, including plans and policies on buildings, facilities, budgets, services, academic support and NCAA compliance, and to advise and make recommendations on same;
3. To receive reports and recommendations from other committees and to advise and make recommendations to the Senate and its committees, as needed;
4. To take on additional duties as directed by the Senate Steering Committee; and
5. To report to the Senate at least annually on the status of Oakland University's Intercollegiate Athletics programs.

We discussed two significant issues this year. First, Jack Mehl presented a proposal from an external source to build a combination baseball and soccer stadium on campus costing approximately \$20,000,000.00. his facility would function as a minor league baseball park for 45 days during the summer months. For the rest of the year it would be used by athletics.

The committee extensively discussed the proposal and unanimously supported the continuation of the discussion with the potential donor as the legal details are worked out. We collective believe that this would make an excellent, no-cost addition to our athletic facilities

Second, Paul Rice presented a proposal to establish a men and women's Outdoor Track program in Spring of 2005. He started his presentation by describing his experiences as an Oakland University student athletic as well as the history of our track club. The thing that made his proposal so interesting to us was its cost. The NCAA will distribute

approximately \$17,600 per sport team beyond a minimum of fourteen teams. This distribution of approximately \$35,000.00 should be sufficient to cover the operations of both men and women's outdoor track teams.

If implemented, this proposal would significantly enhance running at OU. The cross country runners could then compete in the Spring. In addition, a very high percentage of 15 to 20 new participants would be students of color.

The committee unanimously supports the outdoor track proposal and a letter to this effect was sent to President Russi at the end of the winter term.

Bill Macauley, Faculty Athletics Representative