

**Faculty Board on Athletics
Meeting of January 26, 2018
11:45 am-1:15 pm, 2108 Eck Hall of Law**

Members present: Patricia Bellia (Chair), Corey Angst, James Brockmole, Jaimie Bleck, Ann Firth, Erin Hoffman Harding, Patrick Holmes, Daniel Kelly, Mary Ann McDowell, Susan Ohmer, Michael Stanistic, Jack Swarbrick, Cameasha Turner, Kevin Vaughan

Member excused: F. Clark Power

Athletics Liaisons: Missy Conboy

Guests: Claire Leatherwood Slebonick (recorder), Chad Riley, Head Coach of Men's Soccer, Heidi Uebelhor, Assistant Athletics Director

1. Opening Prayer

Professor Patricia Bellia called the meeting to order at 11:49 am and offered the opening prayer.

2. Minutes of meeting of November 15, 2017

The Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2017, meeting.

3. Chair's Announcements

Schedules. Professor Bellia reported that, since the last meeting, she approved the spring schedule for Men's Lacrosse as well as the Indoor Track & Field schedule. Professor Bellia noted that as Men's Lacrosse has a Reading Day game, that game will be included in next fall's report to the Board on Reading Day games.

On-Campus Housing Policy Waivers. Professor Bellia announced she received numerous requests for waivers of the Board's On-Campus Residence policy, including two that she granted: one request from an early enrollee, which she approved in line with past precedents; and one request seeking a medical waiver, which she granted in consultation with the Office of Disability Services. In addition to the two that she granted, Professor Bellia received another six requests for a waiver of the Board's On-Campus Residence policy that she did not grant. Three of those requests necessitated additional medical documentation, and three of those requests could be accommodated by alternative on-campus arrangements.

Captaincy Approvals. Professor Bellia announced that she did not approve any additional captaincy nominations. In response to questions she had received by email, she clarified the timing of one men's basketball captain's approval.

Infractions Matter. Professor Bellia provided a brief update on the procedural posture of Notre Dame's academic misconduct case.

4. Introduction of Chad Riley, Head Men's Soccer Coach

Professor Bellia introduced Chad Riley, the newly hired Head Men's Soccer Coach. Professor Bellia complimented Ms. Beth Hunter, Associate Athletics Director, on running an excellent search process. Professor Bellia expressed her confidence in the result, noting the high caliber of the candidates and describing her role in the interview process.

Professor Bellia offered a short biography of Mr. Riley, noting his educational background, previous coaching stops, and accomplishments. Professor Bellia briefly described his family ties to the area before inviting Mr. Riley to introduce himself to the Board.

Mr. Riley thanked Professor Bellia for the introduction and the opportunity to speak with the Board. Mr. Riley shared his excitement about his new role at Notre Dame and spoke about the transition process. Mr. Riley offered his philosophy regarding how the student-athlete experience fits into the larger academic framework of the university. He described his focus on creating the best culture for student-athletes to grow and consistently improve.

In response to a question from Professor Susan Ohmer regarding issues distinctive to collegiate soccer, Mr. Riley replied that the biggest challenge facing the collegiate game is the growth of the professional league and navigating that alternative as a dynamic in recruiting.

Replying to a question from Professor Corey Angst regarding the type of recruit Mr. Riley expects here, Mr. Riley stated his belief that while the academic profile between Notre Dame and Dartmouth College, Mr. Riley's former employer, is similar, the unique spirit and trajectory of Notre Dame separates the two institutions.

Professor Bellia asked Mr. Riley if he would share his thoughts on the Academic Year Model (AYM), an alternative to the current playing and practice rules governing men's soccer, being pushed by many coaches as a preferable model. Mr. Riley responded by describing the model and his conversations at recent Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Coaches' meetings. Mr. Riley explained his concerns with the AYM, emphasizing the challenges it presents in the development of the student-athletes, and described its current

procedural posture. Professor Bellia provided additional context surrounding the time management implications of the proposal while Mr. Jack Swarbrick described previous votes on the issue within the ACC.

Mr. Riley provided background information on his assistants, Mr. Brian Plotkin and Mr. Ryan Fahey.

In response to a question from Professor Bellia, Mr. Riley described his interactions to date with the men's soccer team, highlighting the positive impact of the Rosenthal Leadership Academy on his team's attendees.

Professor Bellia introduced the Board's liaison to men's soccer, Professor Jaimie Bleck, to Mr. Riley and offered the Board's continued support for the men's soccer program.

Mr. Swarbrick informed the Board that the Athletics Department is engaged in a national search for the next head coach of the women's soccer program, as the former head coach, Theresa Romagnolo, recently resigned. Professor Bellia and Mr. Swarbrick provided context for Ms. Romagnolo's resignation, reporting that Ms. Romagnolo's decision was driven by a desire to spend more time with her family.

5. Academic Reports (Patrick Holmes, Director of Academic Services for Student-Athletes)

Professor Bellia invited Mr. Patrick Holmes, Director of Academic Services for Student-Athletes (ASSA), to provide two annual reports to the Board.

Mr. Holmes described the first report as a summary of how the fifth year student-athletes performed during the 2016-17 academic year. Mr. Holmes shared several features of the cohort, including the size and degree programs of the group. Mr. Holmes highlighted that twenty out of the twenty-two student-athletes over both semesters were above a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) and that the figures from the 2016-17 academic year are consistent with figures from past years. Two students did not complete their courses.

Mr. Holmes provided additional information surrounding why those two student-athletes did not complete their courses, noting in a response a question from Professor Michael Stanisic that the student-athletes were participating in class up to the point at which they left the university. Replying to a question from Professor Ohmer, Mr. Holmes reported that this outcome is unusual, although it has occurred a handful of times, and provided two other examples of student-athletes from the same team remaining engaged in their coursework.

Mr. Holmes informed the Board that all six graduate degree-seeking student-athletes earned their degrees and shared additional characteristics of this group. In response to a question from Professor Angst, Mr. Holmes confirmed that if the two non-finishers were removed from the calculation, the GPA for non-degree-seeking graduate students would be higher than the GPA for degree-seeking graduate students. He noted, however, that he did not view the relative GPAs of the non-degree-seeking and degree-seeking graduate students as an indication of higher engagement in the former group than in the latter. Mr. Holmes described various factors that could cause the GPAs of these two groups to fluctuate from year to year.

Professor Mary Ann McDowell briefly described the rigor and structured schedule of Notre Dame's Master of Science in Global Health program (Global Health program) and the challenges it presents to its enrolled student-athletes. She noted that the inflexibility of various program requirements, which also demand a significant investment of time, has led some student-athletes to advise their peers to not enroll in the program. Professor McDowell relayed a colleague's experiences in working closely with a student-athlete to accommodate the student-athlete's tight schedule.

Professor Bellia shared scenarios in which the student-athlete's choice to pursue a cluster of courses as a non-degree-seeking student was appropriate.

Mr. Holmes commented that most of the student-athletes in a degree program finish it. In response to a question from Professor McDowell, Mr. Holmes listed several single-year graduate degree programs offered at Notre Dame.

In response to a question from Professor Bellia, Professor McDowell shared insights from her time serving on the admissions committee for the Global Health program. Professor McDowell noted the difficulty some student-athletes have in balancing the more strictly scheduled graduate program with the demands of their sport.

Replying to a question from Professor Bellia, Mr. Holmes confirmed that no undergraduates were included in this first summary. In response to a question from Professor Angst, Professor Daniel Kelly commented that transfer student-athletes would not be included in this pool due to the fact that the Board's Fifth Year of Athletics Eligibility application process only applies to Notre Dame undergraduates; Mr. Holmes confirmed this.

Mr. Holmes directed the Board's attention to the second of the two reports, which is the GPA Summary 2017 Spring Semester. Mr. Holmes explained that this report provides, by team, the average semester GPA, cumulative GPA, and SAT score for all student-athletes and for grant-in-aid student-athletes. Mr. Holmes highlighted several overall trends, including that the 2016 Fall and the 2017 Spring were the two best

semester GPAs since this report's inception. Mr. Holmes remarked on team cultures and coaches' investment that support these positive trends.

Mr. Holmes discussed the improvement in the bottom five percent of the grant-in-aid student-athletes, particularly since the creation of the learning specialists' role. He shared that the creation of the learning specialists' role was an outgrowth from goals set by the Student-Athlete Task Force, chaired by Professor Bellia and Mr. Swarbrick. In response to a question from Professor Stanisic, Mr. Holmes further explained the GPA numbers and offered to provide more detailed information on the bottom five percent of the grant-in-aid student-athletes.

Replying to Professor Angst, Mr. Holmes stated that the number of student-athletes can fluctuate during a semester, depending on when the number is measured (e.g., at the beginning of the semester or at the conclusion of the semester). Mr. Holmes explained, in response to a question from Professor Bellia, that several sports, with a significant non-GIA population account for most of the change in the number of student-athletes during a semester, to which Mr. Swarbrick offered additional insight.

Replying to a question from Professor Bellia, Mr. Holmes commented that this group of student-athlete outcomes is consistent with past outcomes. Mr. Holmes further noted that the biggest challenge his office can face is a student-athlete's lack of academic engagement. He reiterated that promoting consistent engagement is a central element of his staff's work.

Following up on an earlier question from Professor Stanisic and noting the Student-Athlete Task Force's mandate regarding academically at-risk student-athletes, Professor Bellia asked if Mr. Holmes could provide a more detailed report to the Board on student-athletes whose academic performances places them in the bottom five percent of the student-athlete population. Mr. Holmes agreed to do so and described current tools he, in conjunction with the Office of Strategic Planning and Institutional Research (OSPIR), employs to monitor and evaluate these risks. Professor Bellia noted that she and Mr. Holmes would work on producing this report for the Board.

Professor Kelly commented that he would be interested in seeing reports on how those grant-in-aid student-athletes entering Notre Dame with lower-than-average test scores perform academically. Mr. Holmes offered some additional comments on that request, including the different base values of the SAT among the current undergraduate cohort. Mr. Swarbrick noted the relation of this request to a focus of the Student-Athlete Task Force. Professor Bellia reiterated that she and Mr. Holmes would work on these additional requests from the Board.

Professor Angst raised a concern from several Mendoza College of Business faculty members: student-athletes are effectively clustering together in classes offered

later in the day. Professor Bella discussed a dynamic that might have affected clustering this semester—that the scheduling of football conditioning in the morning, in response to facilities, time management, and quality-of-life issues, opens up the afternoon class slots, but some required classes are only available in certain slots. Professor Angst shared his understanding that priority registration exacerbates the clustering problem. Professor Bellia noted the Academic Integrity Subcommittee’s ongoing project on course clustering, and proposed that the subcommittee discuss this issue in that context. A discussion followed, with several Board members offering comments and asking questions. Professor Bellia concluded this discussion by confirming that the Academic Integrity Subcommittee would consider this issue.

6. NCAA Convention Update (Missy Conboy, Senior Deputy Athletics Director)

Professor Bellia invited Ms. Missy Conboy to provide an update from the NCAA Convention, held January 17-20, 2018. Prior to Ms. Conboy beginning the discussion, Professor Bellia briefly reminded the Board of the NCAA legislative processes, including the distinction between the autonomy and council processes. Noting the light agenda for the NCAA Convention, Ms. Conboy explained the Consent Package and highlighted three proposals: 2017-100, 2017-104, and 2017-106. Ms. Conboy described each proposal in turn.

Proposal 2017-100, as Ms. Conboy explained it, permits a student-athlete to retain his collegiate eligibility and be represented by an agent in the sport of hockey if that student-athlete is drafted immediately out of high school and severs ties with the agent prior to enrolling full-time at an institution. Ms. Conboy stated this rule mirrors the current agent rule in baseball, noting that only these two sports conduct a draft immediately upon the conclusion of high school. Ms. Conboy discussed concerns stemming from this proposal, describing the challenges inherent in monitoring the termination of these relationships as well as the necessity of considering adjusting these rules for other sports, should those drafts move to a similar time frame as the professional baseball and hockey drafts.

Ms. Conboy shared the elements of proposal 2017-104, which requires an institution to provide medical care for an athletically-related injury suffered by a student-athlete for up to two years from the student-athlete’s graduation or separation from the institution. She commented that anecdotal feedback from other member institutions confirms most schools provided at least similar coverage to the requirements of this proposal prior to the proposal’s adoption. Ms. Conboy remarked on the importance of determining the genesis and timing of the injury prior to the student-athlete separating from the institution. Ms. Conboy compared these new requirements with the coverage Notre Dame already provides, describing each element of the Notre Dame student-athlete insurance suite in detail. She emphasized that Notre Dame’s student-athlete insurance provides coverage well beyond the requirements of this new legislation.

Ms. Conboy explained proposal 2017-106, which mandates a three-day off period over the winter break for men's and women's basketball. Noting that institutions typically provided this time off prior to the adoption of this legislation, Ms. Conboy remarked that this proposal was a companion to another adopted proposal that allows men's and women's basketball to begin their season three days earlier. Ms. Conboy explained how these additional three days off do not count towards the mandatory fourteen days off required by the time management legislation, effectively requiring basketball programs to provide seventeen days off over the course of the academic year. In response to a question from Professor Bellia, Ms. Conboy shared that the rationale for allowing the basketball seasons to begin three days earlier stems from a desire to spread out the non-conference schedule, ease facility-congestion issues, and provide additional class miss management opportunities. Professor Bellia provided context on the rationale, noting that the legislation may relieve some of the pressure on Notre Dame's teams to compete on a Reading Day. While acknowledging that the Athletics Department has not yet seen the impact of these changes, Ms. Conboy commented that early analysis indicates a reprieve in the tight game schedule.

Ms. Conboy reiterated the relevance of these three proposals to the Board's work but briefly noted several other proposals, including one regarding the provision of student-host money.

Professor Bellia shared her reaction to the legislative agenda and her hope that next year's agenda will be more substantively significant. Mr. Swarbrick provided additional insights and context, noting several big issues are in process and were not ready in time for this year's convention. Mr. Swarbrick shared his belief that next year's NCAA Convention will be quite substantive, given work already underway on the transfer process and the Commission on College Basketball, of which Notre Dame's President, Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C, is a member.

Professor Bellia briefly touched on the Division I Council's legislative process, scheduled for an April vote, and explained that there are not many impactful legislative academic issues from this year's process. Ms. Conboy remarked that there will likely be an academic component to some of the proposed changes to the transfer process.

Professor Bellia commented on the NCAA's Transfer Working Group, reminding the Board of its brief discussion on this and related issues during the October 2017 meeting. Professor Bellia shared that Ms. Jill Bodensteiner, Senior Associate Athletics Director, has invited representatives of the NCAA to Notre Dame on March 6, 2018, in order to provide the group feedback on its proposals. Professor Bellia hoped that some members of the Board might be available to join these meetings, noting that documents related to the group's work will be presented and discussed at the February 2018 Board meeting.

In response to a question from Professor Kelly, Mr. Swarbrick shared that the Commission on College Basketball is driving towards providing substantive recommendations in April of this year.

7. Subcommittee Reports – Academic Integrity Subcommittee

Professor Bellia invited Professor Kelly as chair of the Academic Integrity Subcommittee (Subcommittee) to lead the Board's discussion on the Board's Fifth Year of Athletics Eligibility policy and process.

Professor Kelly introduced the topic by referring the Board to handouts included in its meeting informational packet, including a chart detailing the current policy and describing the proposed changes. Professor Kelly described the changes as follows: to eliminate the Board's approval requirement and minimum credit requirement for Notre Dame undergraduates; to eliminate the Board's approval requirement for degree-seeking Notre Dame graduate student-athletes; and to eliminate the mid-semester eligibility requirement for Notre Dame undergraduates continuing as an unclassified graduate student.

Professor Bellia amplified Professor Kelly's comments by noting the disparity in the policy's treatment between Notre Dame undergraduates and transfer student-athletes, asking whether or not the Board would ever deny a student-athlete the opportunity to return to finish his or her degree. She expounded on the rationale behind the proposed changes to graduate student-athletes, noting the Subcommittee's belief that the care and guidance of the student is most appropriately managed by the admitting program. Professor Bellia noted, however, the Board's need to continue to closely track the academic performance of all of these student-athletes.

A discussion ensued, with several members offering comments and asking questions, including Professors McDowell, Bellia, Kelly, James Brockmole and Susan Ohmer. Professor McDowell shared her concerns regarding unintended consequences of not monitoring the approval for degree-seeking graduate students. A broader discussion followed regarding whether the Board's current approval process or the incorporation of a reporting process would address the raised concerns. The Board noted the primacy and rigor of the admitting program's process. Professor Bellia stated her belief that the Board would need to retain some sort of tracking and reporting ability on these student-athletes, to which Mr. Holmes added his support.

Noting the limited time remaining, Professor Kelly invited any other comments related to eliminating the mid-semester eligibility requirement and reiterated the Subcommittee's rationale in proposing the change. Professor Ohmer and Brockmole voiced support for this change, both noting the current policy's inherent practical difficulties.

Ms. Conboy raised a concern related to the impact that the elimination of certain approval requirements could have on existing Athletics Department processes related to this group of student-athletes. Mr. Swarbrick shared his belief that the Athletic Department bore the responsibility to adjust its practices should the Board change its approval requirements. Professor Bellia confirmed that any changes to this part of the Board's policy would not eliminate any guidelines for communication among coaching staffs, ASSA, and others within the Athletics Department.

Professor Ohmer suggested voting on each proposed change individually and moved to vote on eliminating the mid-semester eligibility requirement for Notre Dame undergraduates continuing as unclassified graduate student-athletes. All voting Board members present voted to adopt this proposal, thereby eliminating this requirement.

Professor Kelly moved to eliminate the Board approval of all undergraduates returning for a ninth semester as well as this group's current nine-credit requirement. In so doing, Professor Kelly noted that by removing these Board-imposed requirements, the policy would move to what the university requires of all its undergraduate students. The Board voted to adopt this proposal, with one member abstaining.

Professor Kelly moved to eliminate the Board's approval process for degree-seeking graduate students. The Board voted to adopt this proposal, with one member opposing.

With the meeting over its allotted time, Professor Bellia held any additional discussion and votes for future meetings. She quickly reminded the Board of upcoming subcommittee meetings.

8. Adjournment

Professor Bellia adjourned the meeting at 1:29 pm.