Faculty Board on Athletics
Meeting of February 15, 2016
1:00 pm-3:00 pm, 500 Main Building

Members present: Patricia Bellia (Chair), Alexa Baltes, James Brockmole, Ann Firth, John Gaski, Erin Hoffmann Harding, Patrick Holmes, Dan Kelly, Sean Kelsey, Robin Rhodes, Michael Stanisic, Jack Swarbrick, Kevin Vaughn

Members excused: Mary Ann McDowell, Ann Tenbrunsel

Athletics Liaisons: Jill Bodensteiner

Guests: Kevin Corrigan (Head Coach, Men's Lacrosse), Brian Coughlin (Associate Vice President for Student Development), Deanna Gumpf (Head Coach, Softball), Claire Leatherwood (Recorder)

1. Call to order and opening prayer

Professor Bellia called the meeting to order and offered the opening prayer.

2. Minutes of December 11, 2015, meeting

The minutes of December 11, 2015, were unanimously approved with clarification to Pat Holmes' presentation on graduation rates.

3. Chair's Announcements

Professor Bellia announced that she approved the following schedules: indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, men's soccer (spring), men's swimming (revised), and women's soccer (spring). Professor Bellia also discussed her schedule approval for men's lacrosse, which included possible ACC post-season competition during study days. She noted that the men's lacrosse program had submitted the requisite information detailing the team's schedule and confirming that a counselor from Academic Services for Student-Athletes (ASSA) will travel with the team. Professor Bellia also announced that she had approved an adjusted schedule for men's basketball, permitting the team not to return to campus in the short turnaround between their games at Wake Forest and Florida State. Notwithstanding the additional Thursday class miss occasioned by this change, the team remained within the Board's class miss limits.

Professor Bellia announced that, on the Board's behalf, she had approved captains for softball, women's track and field, and men's track and field.

Professor Bellia discussed two other scheduling issues. First, the NCAA Fencing Championships are scheduled for Easter weekend. Last summer, the Sport Administrator for Fencing, Maureen McNamara, had asked the NCAA to adjust the schedule to prevent

competition on the morning of Easter Sunday. Her request was unsuccessful. Neither Professor Bellia nor Mr. Holmes could recall a past conflict of this nature. In this situation, full application of the Board's Triduum policy would prevent the fencing team from competing in the NCAA Championships. Professor Bellia saw no option other than to permit the team to compete, but to ensure that the team travels with a chaplain and that those student-athletes who wish to do so can attend an Easter Vigil service on Saturday if possible.

Second, Professor Bellia highlighted an issue with the scheduling of men's and women's soccer games during Welcome Weekend. Current Board policy does not allow home games to occur before 6:00 p.m. on Monday. The Board has not revisited its orientation weekend policy since First Year of Studies and Student Affairs adjusted the schedule last year. Men's soccer typically plays an exhibition game on Monday evening after the orientation weekend window closes. Because events have been added on Monday evening, men's soccer consulted with Paul Manrique, Program Director for New Student Engagement (Student Affairs), and reached agreement that the best slot for the Monday game was 5:00 pm. This time presents no conflict with mandatory events, and the soccer game will be included on the calendar of Welcome Weekend events. Members expressed no objection to this adjusted game time. Professor Bellia suggested that the Student-Welfare Subcommittee should re-examine the time windows set forth in the Board's orientation policy, so as to realign them with the new schedule.

As has been the case in the past several years, the women's soccer opening weekend coincides with Welcome Weekend. Recognizing the importance of the women's soccer team aligning its opening games with those of other institutions, the Board has attempted to find the best windows on Friday and Sunday for home competition (and has only occasionally permitted away competition). Last year, in consultation with Mr. Manrique, the games were scheduled for 7:30 pm on Friday and 3:00 pm on Sunday. Mr. Manrique confirmed that these windows best align with the Welcome Weekend schedule this coming fall.

4. Men's Lacrosse Captain Nominations (Kevin Corrigan, Head Men's Lacrosse Coach)

Professor Bellia invited Kevin Corrigan, Head Men's Lacrosse Coach, to discuss three of his candidates for team captain this season. (Professor Bellia had already approved a fourth captain on the Board's behalf.) Upon conclusion of Mr. Corrigan's presentation, members of the Board followed up with additional questions. Professor Bellia thanked Mr. Corrigan for his presentation and excused him from the room.

After discussion, the Board conditionally approved the three captaincies (8 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention).

5. 2017 Softball Schedule and Class Misses (Deanna Gumpf, Head Softball Coach)

Professor Bellia introduced Deanna Gumpf, Head Softball Coach. By way of introduction, Professor Bellia described changes in the ACC scheduling model for softball. For conference competition, softball currently plays Saturday double-headers and single games on Sunday. The ACC recently considered whether to move to a Friday, Saturday, Sunday single-game schedule. Ms. Gumpf was the sole outlier in the ACC coaches' 12-1 vote approving this scheduling model. At the most recent ACC business meeting of Athletics Directors, Faculty Athletics Representatives, and Senior Women Administrators, the vote was 10-3 in favor of the new scheduling model, with Notre Dame, Virginia, and North Carolina in opposition. Notre Dame did secure a commitment from the ACC to schedule a Saturday doubleheader if both schools agree.

Ms. Gumpf thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. Ms. Gumpf then passed out copies of the projected 2017 softball game schedule to members of the Board and described the process she uses for building a schedule, including the need to play a strong non-conference schedule, the fact that softball frequently plays five games in three days, the effect that lengthy winters have on her ability to schedule home games early in the season, and the fact that the top seventy teams in the country usually play a 56-game schedule. Because of the change in the ACC scheduling model, including its effect on the team's ability to play mid-week games, Notre Dame may lose the opportunity to play several games, perhaps as many as eight, making it difficult to match the 56-game schedule that the team's direct competitors play. Additionally, Ms. Gumpf stated that she will always ask her away-game ACC opponents to play a double-header rather than the Friday-Saturday-Sunday single-game schedule. Because she needs to commit now to early season non-conference tournaments for 2017, without knowing which schools (if any) will accede to playing double-headers, she seeks assurance that the Board agrees with her scheduling approach and will support additional Friday class misses, if needed.

Discussion then ensued, with Ms. Gumpf stating that the move away from double-headers was based on teams' inability to use the same pitcher to pitch both games of a double-header. Spreading games to Friday-Saturday-Sunday allows a team to "ride" a single pitcher. Ms. Gumpf reiterated her commitment to playing double-headers and specified that the maximum number of class misses she would need for the tentative proposed schedule would be three over what is allowed in the Monday-Wednesday-Friday sequence. She noted that she would not need to request any additional class miss days for post-season play since the post-season starts after Notre Dame's finals have concluded. There was further discussion of the changing mid-week contests, the effect that change would have on the team's power ranking, the fact that the amount of practice drops precipitously once games begin, and the efforts to maximize the opportunities afforded by spring break to play games without missing class.

Upon the conclusion of this discussion, Ms. Gumpf again thanked the Board members for their time and exited the room.

Members agreed that a motion was unnecessary since the requests from Ms. Gumpf were more to provide working guidelines for her scheduling philosophy, under the new ACC model. Professor Bellia noted that her request was similar to the baseball request approved in the fall. The Friday-Saturday-Sunday single-game schedule actually brings softball into line with baseball, which has had a single-game schedule for several years.

The Board supported both Ms. Gumpf's scheduling philosophy and her request for additional class misses, should the need for these misses come to pass after consultation with ACC opponents.

6. Update on NCAA Convention and ACC Winter Meetings

Professor Bellia asked Ms. Bodensteiner to offer an update on the NCAA Convention. After describing the NCAA's Autonomy and Council legislative structure, Ms. Bodensteiner listed the autonomy proposals discussed at the NCAA Convention and called attention to two sets of proposals: first, three proposals that focused on the time demands issue; and second, Proposal 2015-19, which would adjust the amateurism rules surrounding the student-athlete's use of his or her own name, image, or likeness in non-athletically related contexts. Because of a number of questions regarding Proposal 2015-19, the proposal's sponsors withdrew the proposal for the time being, but that the issue would continue to be discussed. Ms. Bodensteiner emphasized the priority associated with reforming time demands, both from a philosophical and legislative perspective. Three proposals were put forth, but were replaced by a resolution that withdrew those proposals and committed the autonomy conferences to developing comprehensive reforms by January 2017.

Ms. Bodensteiner highlighted the next steps associated with the autonomy legislative process, noting that the ACC has formed subcommittees to study numerous issues, including Time Demands, Early Recruiting, and Personnel Limits. Professor Bellia noted that Ms. Bodensteiner is on the ACC subcommittee for Time Demands. Ms. Bodensteiner described the Notre Dame Athletics Steering Committee, a committee of student-athletes, athletics administrators, and Board members (specifically, Professor Bellia and Professor Rhodes). The Steering Committee is getting input from stakeholders on the time demand issues and hopes to develop a proposal to guide ACC and NCAA efforts.

There are three key proposals being voted on in April at the Council meetings, including a proposal to clarify the NCAA's role in academic misconduct (a modified version of the proposal discussed at a fall Board meeting), a financial aid proposal that would allow student-athletes to accept both athletics and institutional aid without requiring the institutional aid to count against scholarship limits, and a financial aid proposal that would allow cost of attendance to be provided for summer school attendees.

Finally, Professor Bellia offered an update from the ACC winter meetings and highlighted current discussions surrounding graduate student eligibility reforms.

7. Adjournment

At 2:59 p.m., Professor Bellia adjourned the meeting.