

**Faculty Board on Athletics
Meeting of May 6, 2016
11:00 am-1:00 pm, 500 Main Building**

Members present: Patricia Bellia (Chair), James Brockmole, Ann Firth, John Gaski, Erin Hoffman Harding, Patrick Holmes, Dan Kelly, Sean Kelsey, Mary Ann McDowell, Robin Rhodes, Michael Stanistic, Ann Tenbrunsel, Kevin Vaughan

Members excused: Alexa Baltus, Jack Swarbrick

Athletics Liaisons: Molly Campbell on behalf of Missy Conboy

Guests: Jim McLaughlin, Claire Leatherwood (Recorder)

1. Opening Prayer

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

2. Minutes of Meeting of March 21, 2016

After typographical errors on page three were corrected, the Board approved the minutes of March 21, 2016, with nine votes in favor and one abstention.

3. Chair's Announcements

Professor Bellia announced an approved schedule change for the Track and Field team to minimize the time away from campus over reading days. Track and Field had previously requested and been granted the opportunity to participate in a meet in Des Moines, Iowa, on a reading day. The additional request was for a meet located in Bloomington, Indiana, on the same day as the previously approved meet, so as to allow a subset of the team to compete with less time away from campus.

Mr. Pat Holmes and Professor Bellia described how they worked through the exam conflicts process, noting that only one team, women's golf, had a post-season NCAA tournament conflict with the exam schedule.

4. Volleyball Class Miss Request (Head Volleyball Coach Jim McLaughlin)

Professor Bellia introduced Mr. Jim McLaughlin, Head Volleyball Coach, and then asked the Board members to introduce themselves.

Mr. McLaughlin began his request for additional class misses by saying he understands the impact missed classes can have on students. Mr. McLaughlin described both the Atlantic Coast Conference's (ACC) volleyball scheduling format, to play Friday and Sunday, as well as

his staff's attempts to minimize this format's impact by requesting that opponents hosting Notre Dame in non-conference play schedule Notre Dame on Saturday and Sunday, or late on Friday rather than earlier in the day. Two requests of this nature for games in September were denied by the opponents.

In addition to attempts to change the format of play discussed above, Mr. McLaughlin stated that he wanted to travel over both fall and Thanksgiving breaks, but the ACC is requiring Notre Dame to play at home over Thanksgiving. Mr. McLaughlin then described an alternative schedule model that he and his staff advocated to the ACC as one that minimizes class misses while ensuring competitiveness, even as it reduces travel costs.

These combination of ACC and non-conference scheduling constraints led Mr. McLaughlin to request a total of six Monday-Wednesday-Friday class misses, which he acknowledges is double the allowable number. In making this request, Mr. McLaughlin stated that he and his staff are doing everything possible to not miss class and are doing the best they can with the requirements imposed by the ACC.

In response to a question from Professor Bellia, Mr. McLaughlin further described the schedule he referenced having proposed to the ACC. An element of this schedule is a pod system, which would group five teams each into one of three geographically-based pods with the winners of each pod then playing each other. The benefit of this type of scheduling is to minimize travel.

Professor Dan Kelly inquired as to the reasoning for the refusal by Michigan State University (MSU), one of the non-conference opponents referenced above as denying Notre Dame's proposed change in game time. Mr. McLaughlin explained that it is the prerogative of the tournament host to set the tournament schedule, and MSU did not want to accommodate Notre Dame's request for a later start to its Friday game.

Mr. McLaughlin responded in the affirmative to a question from Professor James Brockmole asking if all six class miss requests would be in the same sequence. Professor Brockmole noted that the requested class misses would be more than a third of Friday meetings. In response to a question from Professor Ann Tenbrunsel, Mr. McLaughlin responded that although his team tries to avoid Friday classes, it is inevitable that some of them will have Friday class. A discussion surrounding departure and travel times ensued, with both Professor Brockmole and Professor Bellia asking questions. Mr. McLaughlin explained that because of the early game time on Friday, unless the opponent agrees to move it back, the team has to leave on Thursday night.

In response to a question from Professor Brockmole about the extent to which the student-athletes could be successful in the face of these scheduling challenges, Professor Bellia invited Mr. Holmes to speak on behalf of Mr. Steve Sollmann, the Academic Services for Student-Athletes (ASSA) staff member assigned to volleyball. Mr. Holmes stated that ten of thirteen volleyball student-athletes have Friday classes with four of those ten having discussion groups on Friday. Professor Brockmole noted that these student-athletes would miss a very large portion of that class. In response, Mr. Holmes described past efforts by his office to mitigate

class misses by either working with the Teaching Assistant (TA) to have a discussion group with the student-athletes outside of the travel window or to tape the discussions. Additionally, Mr. Holmes said his staff would work with the advisors to try to schedule a Tuesday-Thursday class sequence to avoid classes with Friday discussion until the spring semester. Furthermore, Mr. Holmes noted that the culture is strong, with these student-athletes performing well academically, while likening this plan to what softball and baseball do during the spring semester.

Professors Brockmole and Bellia then asked about the size of the travel party. That is, would it be possible to reduce the number of student-athletes traveling to each match to reduce the overall amount of missed classes? Mr. McLaughlin emphasized the need to include fifteen students and stated that the team could leave later if it used charter rather than commercial travel.

In a response to a question from Professor Bellia, Mr. McLaughlin noted that, unlike the Big East, there is no post-season ACC tournament, which negates any chance of needing additional class misses for that tournament. A brief discussion surrounding whether or not post-season play would overlap with Notre Dame's exam schedule followed, with Professors Tenbrunsel and Professor Bellia commenting. Mr. Holmes stated that he did not believe that any post-season play would impact exam days.

In response to a question from Professor McDowell, Professor Bellia stated that the volleyball team's exposure to class misses is different than many other sports, but the fact that there is no ACC post-season tournament places the volleyball team on the same footing as the softball and baseball teams in the spring season.

Finally, Professor Tenbrunsel noted her appreciation for Mr. McLaughlin's apparent level of care of and attentiveness to class misses. Mr. McLaughlin thanked her and again assured the Board that his staff was doing everything possible to mitigate the number of classes missed by his team. Professor Bellia then thanked and excused Mr. McLaughlin.

After Mr. McLaughlin left the room, Professor Bellia invited Mr. Holmes to discuss ASSA's concerns. Mr. Holmes acknowledged that he and his staff had concerns, but stated that it was inevitable within the ACC's current scheduling format and that his staff's focus would be on providing as much support as possible to student-athletes as they miss these classes. In response to a question regarding the team culture from Professor Bellia, Mr. Holmes said that his staff was confident they could cover the tutorials, provide support through tutoring in math, in particular, and then work with the First Year of Studies to limit the amount of exposure the freshman volleyball players would have to Friday classes.

Professor Brockmole then inquired about the similarities between the schedules for volleyball compared to the schedules for baseball and softball. Professor Bellia responded with a brief description of how the Board has delegated its authority to her to grant up to two additional classes misses within either the Monday-Wednesday-Friday or Tuesday-Thursday sequence. She then described baseball's request for a third extra class miss due to their efforts to not play on Easter and compared that to softball's reasoning for additional class misses, noting that the removal of the double header option made softball's scheduling challenges very similar to

volleyball's scheduling challenges. In response to Professor Brockmole's question, Professor Bellia stated that softball requested up to six misses in their schedule although they were attempting to miss less class than what was approved.

Professor Brockmole expressed his view that while he believes the coaching staffs are doing the best they can to mitigate the amount of class their teams miss, the ACC scheduling requirements and resulting class miss are unsustainable. Furthermore, he encouraged Father John Jenkins, University President, and Mr. Jack Swarbrick, as well as the rest of the Athletics Department leadership, to continue to push back on scheduling requirements that result in excessive missed classes.

Professor Bellia agreed and linked this conversation to a later agenda item, Time Demands Reform. In making that connection, Professor Bellia briefly described the Autonomy (A5) meetings in which these concerns, including the possibility of a universal class miss policy, were discussed by Faculty Athletic Representatives.

In response to a further comment from Professor Brockmole and a question from Professor Kelly clarifying whether or not Notre Dame is an outlier when it comes to a class miss rule, Professor Bellia stated that minimizing class misses do not seem to be as significant of a concern to Notre Dame's conference peers. Professor Bellia gave the example of a school that offers many online courses, which in turn provides student-athletes more flexibility in their travel options than is available at Notre Dame.

Professor McDowell asked if this is something either Father Jenkins or Thomas Burish, University Provost, could push for at their respective levels. Professor Bellia replied that she, Ms. Melissa Conboy, Senior Deputy Athletics Director, and Mr. Swarbrick all push for change in this area. She described conversations held at ACC meetings last year regarding the softball schedule, in which only two other conference schools, University of Virginia and University of North Carolina, voted with Notre Dame to preserve the double-header option to mitigate class misses. Professor Kelly echoed previous sentiments regarding the involvement of university presidents and provosts in this discussion.

At the conclusion of this discussion, Mr. McLaughlin's request for three additional class misses in the Monday-Wednesday-Friday was unanimously approved by the Board. After the vote, Professor Bellia commented that, from the discussion, she gathered that Notre Dame needs to push back against the ACC's scheduling constraints at the presidential level so as to limit the number of overall class misses.

5. Football Schedule/Class Miss Request

Professor Bellia directed Board members to their packet of materials for the football class miss documents, related to the opening game against the University of Texas in Austin. As background information, Professor Bellia explained that the game was originally scheduled for Saturday, September 3, with a kickoff at either 12:00 noon or 3:30 pm. ABC/ESPN asked to shift the game to Sunday night, guaranteeing a kickoff in the 7:00-8:00 pm window. The football staff requested, and Professor Bellia approved, the move to Sunday night. Student-

athlete welfare was a factor to the extent that there is an expected decrease in temperature of ten-fifteen degrees by playing in the evening rather than the afternoon. In approving the schedule change, Professor Bellia deferred to a meeting of the full Board the question of how to handle class misses in connection with this game. In lieu of the full-day class miss request for Friday, September 2, that would have accompanied a Saturday afternoon game, the football staff requested a half-day class miss for Monday, September 5, to permit the student-athletes to rest following the team's projected return to campus at approximately 5 am on Monday morning.

Professor Bellia stated that given the unusual nature of the request, i.e. to have an approved class miss even though the student-athletes would be back on campus, she wanted to discuss the matter with the full Board even though the overall number of misses fit within the authority the Board has delegated to her. In further describing this request, Professor Bellia said that typically, football has three full days of Friday misses and two half days of Friday misses. Since the game is not until Sunday, football would not be traveling until Saturday, thereby enabling student-athletes to attend all classes on Friday. In other words, the student-athletes would gain back the full day of class on Friday, but lose a half day of class on Monday morning.

In response to a question from Professor Kelly, Professor Bellia stated that she understood the request to be for all classes prior to the 11:00 am/11:30 am slot on Monday morning. A discussion ensued about different travel options and how that would impact the student-athletes' ability, as well as their desire, to attend class, with Professor Sean Kelsey, Professor Michael Stanisic, and Professor Bellia commenting.

Professor Bellia invited Mr. Holmes to give ASSA's view on the request, to which Mr. Holmes responded that his staff believed it was a net a gain for the student-athletes.

In response to a question from Professor Brockmole, Professor Bellia stated that she did not believe the Sunday night schedule request would be a recurring one, noting that the game fell on Labor Day weekend prior to the start of the National Football League's schedule. Mr. Holmes raised the question of Thursday games. Professor Bellia acknowledged that the ACC faculty athletics representatives have discussed the challenges of Thursday night games, but she is unaware of any discussion of Thursday night home games for Notre Dame. A general discussion of the merits of Thursday games versus Saturday games followed.

Professor Bellia confirmed, in response to a question from Professor Kelly, that an additional class miss for the Friday before this game would not be granted if requested. A question about the availability for Mass to be held while traveling was raised by Professor Kelly, with Professor Bellia stating she would confirm that a Mass would be scheduled.

At the conclusion of the discussion, including further comments reiterating that an additional class miss for the Friday before this game should not be granted, all voted in favor with none opposed and no abstentions.

6. Student-Athlete Requests for Waivers of On-Campus Housing Requirement (John Gaski)

- **Medical Waivers**
- **Summer Waivers**

Professor Bellia then invited Professor Gaski to discuss pending student-athlete requests for waivers of the on-campus housing requirement. Professor Gaski described two medical waiver requests, one that the committee unanimously voted to support, and one as to which the committee divided evenly between those who voted in favor unconditionally and those who conditioned their votes on the Office of Housing being unable to provide the student-athlete with an air-conditioned single room. Professor Bellia added that the student's diagnosis came too late for the student to adequately position herself within the housing draw process. Professor Bellia noted both that the Office of Housing is trying to find an air conditioned single for this student and that this student actually does not want to move off-campus. Additionally, Professor Bellia briefly described a flaw in the paperwork process: that the student had been given the Board's medical waiver form rather than being directed to the Disabilities Office.

In response to a comment from Erin Hoffmann Harding, Professor Bellia stated that the request for a single, rather than just an air-conditioned room, was attributable to the student-athlete's severe peanut allergy, which meant that any roommate would need to be completely peanut free.

Professor Bellia then called for a vote, in which both waivers were approved; the first being approved unanimously and the second being approved only on the condition that the Office of Housing cannot place the student into an air-conditioned single room.

Professor Bellia then turned the Board's attention to a summer waiver request. The student is seeking to stay in family housing because of a combined projected cost savings of almost two thousand dollars. The student has two other siblings currently enrolled in college. In describing this request, Professor Bellia stated that this request is not unlike several the Board received the previous summer and noted that the Board had considered changing its policy on this matter for student-athletes who are receiving partial grants-in-aid. After a comment by Professor McDowell summarizing the facts of this waiver request, a vote was taken with all voting in favor, none opposed and one abstention.

After the vote, Professor Bellia raised the issue of whether the Board wanted to grant her a delegation of authority to treat any waiver requests received after this consistently with how the Board has treated past requests until the resumption of Board meetings in the Fall 2016 semester. A discussion followed regarding whether or not the Board should reconsider its housing policy, the interplay between the Board's policy and Student Affairs' policy, and how changes to either could affect the other. A general consensus emerged that this issue should be raised again during the Board's fall meeting slate.

After this discussion ended, all voted in favor of delegating authority to Professor Bellia to handle requests that arise over the summer in accordance with past precedent, with none opposed and no abstentions.

7. Academic Progress Rate Report (Pat Holmes)

Mr. Holmes then began his report to the Board regarding Notre Dame's Academic Progress Rate. He started by defining the Graduate Student Success Rate (GSR) and the Academic Progress Rate (APR), further describing the APR as a tool that measures currently enrolled grant-in-aid recipients' academic performance throughout their academic careers by evaluating their eligibility and retention each semester. Mr. Holmes then explained the point system that generates the APR score, the way in which Notre Dame annually reports its numbers to the NCAA, and the four-year summary of information that the APR report comprises.

After describing the general process, Mr. Holmes delved into Notre Dame's most recent report, noting that Notre Dame's numbers are consistently solid. Sixteen Notre Dame teams, with Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field only counting as one sport, had perfect APR scores in the 2016 report. Mr. Holmes emphasized one important distinction between how these rates may compare to other schools, noting that Notre Dame uses a different eligibility point metric than what the NCAA requires. Consequently, the metric Notre Dame uses to report its information to the NCAA is more stringent than the metric of many of its peers.

Professor McDowell questioned if it would be possible to continue using Notre Dame's more stringent metric for internal purposes while using the NCAA required metric for APR reporting purposes. Professor Bellia clarified that this more stringent standard is used because the NCAA requires schools to report using the metrics the institution uses to determine good standing. To further demonstrate the difference in outcomes between the two metrics, Mr. Holmes offered an analysis illustrating what would change in Notre Dame's APR's report if the NCAA's metric, rather than Notre Dame's metric, were used. The highlight of that analysis, as Mr. Holmes pointed out, is that for all of those student-athletes for whom Notre Dame lost an eligibility point using Notre Dame's more stringent metric, Notre Dame would not have lost that eligibility point had Notre Dame used the NCAA's metric. Additionally, Mr. Holmes emphasized that all team scores would improve if the NCAA metric were used.

Mr. Holmes then suggested that the use of this more stringent institutional standard within the APR report should be reconsidered. A discussion of this suggestion followed, with Professor Bellia crystalizing the two areas in which this standard could change and members of the Board commenting on various aspects of this issue, including whether or not Notre Dame should advertise this more stringent standard. Further discussion ensued over the use of a semester or cumulative GPA within the APR report with Professors McDowell, Kelly, and Brockmole commenting.

In response to a question from Professor Kevin Vaughan, Mr. Holmes responded that Notre Dame has higher APR scores than most other schools, particularly when understanding that Notre Dame's metrics are more stringent. Professor Robin Rhodes then asked if any other schools used different metrics, to which Mr. Holmes and Professor Bellia responded by identifying one school each in the Big East and ACC. A further discussion of the eligibility and retention point followed, with Mr. Holmes offering further details and examples of the application of these rules. Professor Bellia noted additional unique requirements for football.

Additional discussion followed, with a consensus emerging that the Board should consider this issue in more depth during fall meetings. In response to a comment from Professor Brockmole, Mr. Holmes stated that the difference in outcome between the two metrics can be meaningful to a recruit, particularly when the recruit is considering multiple competitive institutions. Ms. Harding suggested that conversations explaining this difference in metrics could be had with the recruit and family. After Professor Stanisic asked about a comparison to a peer school, Professor Gaski reiterated that it is important to clearly describe the difference in metrics in university communications.

Professor Bellia thanked Mr. Holmes for his report.

8. Update on Time Demands Legislation (Tricia Bellia, Claire Leatherwood, Molly Campbell)

Professor Bellia introduced the next topic, an update on NCAA Time Demands Legislation. As background information, Professor Bellia described how this subject has been given priority within the NCAA's legislative agenda and that the goal is to pass comprehensive reform, rather than doing so in a piece-meal fashion. Professor Bellia noted how Notre Dame took a leadership role and briefly described the actions taken on Notre Dame's campus in support of developing Time Demands proposals. After explaining that there would be important developments over the summer months, Professor Bellia promised a further update during the Board's fall meetings.

9. Update from Academic Integrity Subcommittee (Dan Kelly)

Professor Bellia turned the discussion over to Professor Kelly who offered an update from the Academic Integrity Subcommittee.

Professor Kelly reported that the subcommittee had considered two issues since the Board's previous meeting: fifth year applications and the Byron V. Kanaley Award winners.

Professor Kelly stated that the committee had voted on two different groups of fifth year applications, the first set being primarily fall applications and the second set being primarily spring applications. In describing the applications, Professor Kelly acknowledged that the spring applications were still subject to Student Affairs clearance. Noting that some of the applications were for an unclassified graduate program of studies, Professor Kelly referenced the committee's discussion on that topic and briefly described the committee's plans to monitor that group's academic progress. Finally, Professor Kelly reported that all applications were routine so, as such, require no action from the full Board.

Professor Kelly then announced the five winners of the Byron V. Kanaley Award, an award presented annually by the Board to senior monogram winners who are most exemplary as students and leaders. The subcommittee had reviewed the nominations and unanimously recommended to the full Board a slate of five student-athletes. The Board ratified that slate via an e-mail vote closing on April 14. This year's winners are:

- Emma Gaboury, Women's Swimming and Diving;
- Molly Seidel, Women's Cross Country and Track & Field;
- Garret McGrath, Men's Fencing;
- Quentin Monahan, Men's Tennis;
- Katie Naughton, Women's Soccer.

Professor Kelly stated that all five are outstanding and deserve congratulations.

10. Reports, if any, of Ex Officio Members or Liaisons

There were no additional reports.

11. Adjournment

After offering special thanks to Professor Tenbrunsel and Professor Rhodes for their years of outstanding service to the Board, Professor Bellia adjourned the meeting at 1:03 p.m.