

Faculty Board on Athletics
May 13, 2008
Room 500, Main Building

Members present: Prof. Donald Pope-Davis (Chair); Prof. Patricia Bellia; Mr. Michael M. Burns (Student Rep.); Prof. Stephen Fallon; Prof. Umesh Garg; Mr. Patrick Holmes; Prof. William Kelley; Prof. Mary Ann McDowell; Prof. Richard Pierce; Prof. Robin Rhodes; Dr. Frances Shavers; and Prof. John Weber

Members absent: Prof. David Kirkner and Rev. Mark Poorman, C.S.C.

Board Liaisons: Ms. Missy Conboy and Mr. Stan Wilcox of the Department of Athletics

Observers and Guests: Fr. John Jenkins, C.S.C., President; William Kirk, Associate Vice President of Residence Life, Kathryn Lam (Recorder)

1. Call to order and prayer: Prof. Pope-Davis called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Prof. Garg offered the opening prayer.

2. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the meeting of April 21, 2008 were unanimously approved.

3. Prospective Student-Athlete Admissions Standards: Fr. Jenkins addressed the Board about admissions as it relates to student-athletes. He explained the key goals that he shares with the Department of Athletics: 1) integrity of the person, 2) academic success, and 3) athletic success at a high level. It is important for student-athletes, who have a tremendous record of success, to be fully integrated into the campus community. He is extremely pleased with the coaches at the University because they buy into and accept the values of Notre Dame. He said that the University will continue to aspire to have superb student-athletes who are superb at academics.

Fr. Jenkins thanked all members for their work on the Board this year. Prof. Pope-Davis thanked Fr. Jenkins for meeting with the Board.

4. End-of-year report: Mr. Holmes distributed copies of two annual reports entitled “Profile of Student-Athletes: 2007-2008 Academic Year” and “Student-Athlete Profile Summary.” He reviewed various aggregated data related to the academic performance of student-athletes and athletic teams.

Prof. Weber and Kelley complimented ASSA for its work with student-athletes. Prof. Kelley said that, given the demands on their time, it is extraordinary that student-athletes perform as well as they do in the classroom. However, he is worried about the culture of undergraduate education becoming segregated between student-athletes and non-student-athletes due to any differences in academic performance. Mr. Holmes said ASSA’s biggest challenge is the students who are outliers. Prof. Kelley commented that it is important to keep focused on and to encourage strong writing programs.

5. Subcommittee Updates:

a) Student Welfare: Mr. Burns informed the Board that the subcommittee met with Adam Sargent, Associate Director of ASSA. Mr. Burns said that ASSA has a number of great programs already in effect and that the subcommittee is determining what it can do to support and build on those programs, especially in the area of writing.

Prof. McDowell said that the subcommittee met with Charmelle Green, Assistant Athletic Director for Student Welfare and Development. Ms. Green expressed interest in meeting with the Board to explain the responsibilities and purview of her office. Prof. Bellia said that she would like that and similar informational presentations incorporated in Board meetings and retreats. Prof. Pope-Davis agreed to incorporate informational sessions in future Board gatherings.

b) Academic Integrity: Prof. Weber updated the Board about the letter sent to coaches and departmental chairs regarding class and practice times. He said that the subcommittee did receive some feedback, including through productive conversations with Sam Gaglio, Assistant Dean, Mendoza College of Business, and Ava Preacher, Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Letters. It was decided that because of the uniqueness of each situation, timing of classes, availability of facilities, etc., that each case should be considered on an ad hoc basis.

Prof. Pope-Davis thanked the subcommittees and the chairs, in particular, for their hard work.

6. Closing Remarks: Prof. Pope-Davis reminded members of the presentation to be given by Dr. Jack DeGioia, President, Georgetown University, on Monday, August 18, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.. A dinner will follow in the lobby of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. He said that invitations will be mailed to all members and that they are welcome to bring a guest.

As is tradition, on behalf of the Board, Prof. Pope-Davis presented small gifts to Profs. Fallon and Weber and thanked them for their contributions and service to the Board over the past six years. Prof. Pope-Davis also thanked the entire membership for their hard work and activity during the year.

With no further business to discuss, Prof. Pope-Davis adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m..