

**Faculty Board on Athletics  
February 28, 2008  
Room 500, Main Building**

**Members:** Prof. Donald Pope-Davis (Chair); Prof. Patricia Bellia; Mr. Michael M. Burns (Student Rep.); Prof. Umesh Garg; Mr. Patrick Holmes; Prof. William Kelley; Prof. Mary Ann McDowell; Prof. Richard Pierce; (Rev.) Mark Poorman, C.S.C; Dr. Frances Shavers and Prof. John Weber

**Members absent:** Prof. Stephen Fallon; Prof. David Kirkner; Prof. Robin Rhodes and Dr. Kevin White

**Board Liaisons:** Ms. Missy Conboy, Mr. Michael Karwoski, and Mr. Stan Wilcox of the Department of Athletics

**Observers and Guests:** Bobby Clark, Head Men's Soccer Coach; Susan Holt, Head Women's Golf Coach; Jim Kubinski, Head Men's Golf Coach and Kathryn Lam (Recorder)

**1. Call to order and prayer:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Fr. Poorman offered the opening prayer.

**2. Men's Soccer Coach Update:** Coach Bobby Clark addressed the Board by providing an update on the men's soccer program. He covered topics including team performance, goals and travel arrangements, team and individual awards, and academic support services.

**3. Approval of minutes:** Minutes from the meeting of December 17, 2007, were unanimously approved as presented.

**4. Faculty Board on Athletics Retreat:** Prof. Pope-Davis distributed save the date cards for a presentation on Monday, August 18, 2008, by Jack DeGioia, President of Georgetown University, member of the Knight Commission and former Chair, Big East Executive Committee. He noted that this presentation will be made in conjunction with the annual Board retreat and that invitations will be forthcoming.

**5. Letter to Coaches and Directors of Undergraduate Studies:** Members received a copy of the letter in advance of the meeting. Prof. Pope-Davis reminded members that the letter was drafted by the Academic Integrity Subcommittee regarding the issue of practice and class scheduling. He also informed the Board that Provost, Tom Burish, and Director of Athletics, Kevin White, both agreed to sign the letter. The plan is to distribute the letter to coaches at the next Coaches Meeting, mail it to the Directors of Undergraduate Studies at that same time, and then resend the letter annually thereafter.

**6. Men's and Women's Golf Schedule Approval:** Prof. Pope-Davis welcomed Jim Kubinski and Susan Holt, Head Coaches of the Men's and Women's Golf teams, respectively. In advance of the meeting, members of the Board received copies of the letters and schedules submitted by both coaches. The purpose for the discussion was to consider the coaches' requests for class misses in excess of those allowed by the Board's policy on scheduling practice, competition and

travel. [The Board's current policy allows up to three class miss days in both the Monday/Wednesday/Friday and Tuesday/Thursday class sequences.] The coaches presented the challenges their programs face around scheduling competitive schedules while also complying with the University's class miss policy.

After their presentations, Prof. Pope-Davis thanked both coaches for the detail and thoroughness of their report and indicated that the Board was "here to work with the coaches." He concluded by informing the coaches that the Board will need to deliberate on the requests they submitted.

**7. Academic Integrity Subcommittee Update:** Chair of the Academic Integrity Subcommittee, John Weber, said that the committee is dealing with four issues. The subcommittee developed a five-part recommendation for enhancing communication between coaches and Academic Services for Student-Athletes. Prof. Weber said that based on feedback from the Board, the subcommittee modified two letters to be distributed to teaching faculty and department heads. He circulated the latest draft of those letters. He summarized the five-part recommendation and called for a vote by the Board to approve the plan. After a couple comments from members on language in the letter, Prof. Pope-Davis tabled the motion to approve the letters. He said this would give everyone the opportunity for members to review the letters and provide feedback to the subcommittee. Prof. Weber said that he would email members a composite of the points discussed at the meeting. Prof. Pope-Davis concluded that the issue will be brought back to the full Board for a final decision.

**8. Athletics Facilities Update:** Ms. Conboy provided an update on the Athletic Facilities Master Plan. She reminded members that in 2000, architecture firm, HNTB, developed an initial detailed plan for the new athletic facilities based on need, available space, and other considerations. The first major project to be completed was the Guglielmino Complex. The softball stadium is currently under construction and is scheduled to be dedicated in April 2008.

A multi-venue project will begin this spring and will impact the site of the current and future track, football practice fields, soccer field and lacrosse field. In March of this year the old track will be demolished and the future track area will be leveled. The new track is scheduled to be completed in November 2008. Construction on three new fields, primarily for use for football practice, will begin in April 2008, with an estimated completion date of August 2008. Two of the fields will be synthetic turf and one will be natural turf. One of the synthetic turf fields will be lined with football, soccer, and lacrosse field markings (similar to the current markings on Meyo Field in the Loftus Sports Center). The new soccer and lacrosse stadiums will begin construction in July 2008 and are expected to be completed in June 2009.

The Purcell Pavilion, a three-story addition to the south end of the JACC, will begin construction this fall and will include a club area, ticket office, concessions, restrooms, atrium and retail store. In response to a question from Prof. Pope-Davis, Ms. Conboy estimated that after renovations, the seating capacity in the JACC basketball arena will be a little less than 10,000 seats. Plans for the hockey arena in the JACC include two large video boards. Ms. Conboy mentioned that the Department of Athletics is currently in discussion with student government and other student leaders on how to handle student seating sections in the new hockey arena. One of the major changes through all of the construction and renovation to the southeast side of campus will be to

integrate (through landscape, OIT lines, etc.) the athletic facilities with the rest of campus. A budget of \$6.2 million has been allocated for aesthetics and infrastructure.

Ms. Conboy explained that the current plan for the rowing is to build a new rowing house at the current location and to improve the team's locker room facilities in the JACC. However, the Department of Athletics is also contemplating switching house locations with the South Bend Boat House. Ms Conboy concluded by informing the Board that the resurfacing of the tennis courts will take place this summer.

In response to an inquiry from Prof. Weber, Ms. Conboy responded by saying that the basketball arena seating issues are being considered in conjunction with the student seating issues in the hockey arena. She added that the seating issue is a problem especially over holiday breaks when students are away from campus. The new seats in the basketball arena will be blue.

**9. FBA Manual Review:** Mr. Burns indicated that the Student Welfare Subcommittee was tasked by Prof. Pope-Davis to review the Faculty Board on Athletics Manual and to make suggestions to update, edit, and revise it. He then asked for any comments on the revisions presented.

Fr. Poorman said that he had been in conversation with Prof. Pope-Davis about the Off Campus Residence Policy. As the policy currently reads, it allows an appeal for any student-athlete turned down to move off campus. Fr. Poorman said that he felt that the policy is in need of criteria for granting a hearing and he proposed and distributed language that outlines such criteria. He explained that Ann Firth, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, who largely drafted the Off Campus Residence Policy, helped to develop the language he is proposing.

Prof. Pope-Davis said that the policy as it is currently stated allows any student-athlete that is denied to move off campus the right to a hearing committee. Fr. Poorman said that his proposed language is an attempt to limit the appeals process so that a student-athlete must have some warrant to get to the appeal level.

A discussion ensued and resulted in the following language replacing the entire first paragraph and the first sentence of the second paragraph of the Grant-in-aid Student-Athlete Housing Policy Appeals Procedure:

In those instances where: a) a grant-in-aid student-athlete's request for permission to live off-campus during the senior year is denied by the Director of the Office of NCAA Compliance and Student-Athlete Development/Welfare, or b) a grant-in-aid student-athlete is determined to have moved off-campus without permission by the Director of the Office of NCAA Compliance and Student-Athlete Development/Welfare, the grant-in-aid student-athlete may, within 10 days of receiving the written explanation for the decision, submit a written request for an appeal hearing to the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR). The FAR is authorized by the Faculty Board to review the written request and to grant an appeal hearing only if the student-athlete possesses substantive new information not available to the Office of NCAA Compliance and Student-Athlete

Development/Welfare at the time the decision was made and, if known, would have resulted in a different outcome.

The FAR will provide the student-athlete with written notification of his/her decision regarding the request for an appeal hearing within a reasonable period of time, ordinarily not to exceed 10 days of receiving this request. If the FAR denies the request for an appeal hearing, the decision of the Office of NCAA Compliance and Student-Athlete Development/Welfare is final.

If the FAR grants the request for an appeal hearing, this hearing is conducted within a reasonable period of time, ordinarily not to exceed thirty (30) days after the FAR receives the written request.

Mr. Holmes then addressed a concern with the Fifth Year of Eligibility Policy. Mr. Holmes explained that there is a contradiction in the final section of the policy that lists additional conditions for the Faculty Board's approval of any petition for a fifth year of eligibility. He said that it adds confusion because the Graduate School does require a 3.0 GPA to be considered in good academic standing, but that being in good academic standing is not a requirement to participate in athletics. A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required to remain eligible to participate in athletics. Members agreed to strike point #3 from that section of the policy.

Prof. Pope-Davis tabled the review of the FBA Manual until the next meeting of the Board. A motion to approve all amendments will take place at the conclusion of the review of the entire FBA Manual. The plan will be for all changes to take affect beginning in Academic Year 2008-2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.