

**Faculty Board on Athletics**  
**Monday, November 12, 2007**  
**Main Building, Room 500, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Members:** 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. David Kirkner; Prof. Mary Ann McDowell; Prof. Richard Pierce; (Rev.) Mark Poorman, C.S.C; Prof. Robin Rhodes; Dr. Frances Shavers; and Prof. John Weber

**Members absent:** Dr. Kevin White

**Board Liaisons:** Mr. Stan Wilcox of the Department of Athletics

**Liaisons absent:** Ms. Missy Conboy and Mr. Mike Karwoski of the Department of Athletics

**Observers and Guests:** Prof. Dennis Jacobs, Vice President and Associate Provost; Kathryn Lam, recorder

**1. Call to order and prayer:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m. Prof. Bellia offered the opening prayer.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes from the meeting of October 3, 2007 were approved unanimously.

**3. Handouts:** The Chair distributed three informational items:

- 1) updated committee profile books
- 2) updated subcommittee assignments
- 3) updated member contact information

**4. Welcome:** The Chair welcomed Prof. Garg back to the Faculty Board on Athletics. [Professor Garg replaces Prof. Francis Castellino as the faculty representative from the College of Science.] Prof. Garg introduced himself as a professor of physics and said that he was glad to return to the Board.

**5. The Chair's informational updates:**

**Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics:** The Chair distributed a document entitled "Faculty Perceptions of Intercollegiate Athletics Survey" and explained that he recently returned from a meeting where this survey was talked about in detail by the Knight Commission. The document provides discussion and statistics on faculty perceptions of intercollegiate athletics. The Chair asked that the members review the information and consider if there is anything contained in the survey to which the Board should discuss. The Chair indicated that the full survey is available online.

**Class Miss Policy:** The Chair informed the Board that there is currently some discussion among Big East conference members about class miss policies and, perhaps, an interest in standardizing

a policy across conference institutions. He indicated that Notre Dame's policy is perhaps the most comprehensive of any Big East peer institution. The Chair also said that he shared Notre Dame's policy with the Big East Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) group. Notre Dame's policy is more restrictive than most schools in the conference. Most Big East schools do not currently have class miss policies; the individual students are expected to negotiate with faculty members regarding attendance.

Mr. Wilcox noted that he was previously on the Big East Conference staff and that even before the Big East expanded its membership, Notre Dame was one of the few schools with a policy. Most of the new schools that joined the Big East did not have class miss policies. Mr. Wilcox pointed out that difficulties arise when one school has a policy to which it must adhere and another school is more flexible in its scheduling. The Chair reiterated that because of those difficulties, it is important that the Big East is aware of Notre Dame's policy.

Prof. Weber reminded the Board that some of Notre Dame's sports do not compete in the Big East. For example, the golf teams play a number of schools outside of the Big East. He noted that both the SEC and ACC recently approved scheduling three-day tournaments (as opposed to the traditional two-day tournaments), which, given Notre Dame's class miss policy, may make it difficult for our teams to compete. Prof. Weber suggests that we look at policies beyond Big East institutions since Notre Dame enters tournaments sponsored by other conferences and is competing against schools that are not constrained by the same policy.

**6. Honor Code presentation:** Prof. Dennis Jacobs, Vice President and Associate Provost addressed the Board regarding honor code violations as they relate to student-athletes. He also conveyed his interest in seeking advice from the Board about potential programs and initiatives. Prof. Jacobs informed the Board that he co-chairs the University Code of Honor Committee with a current student. The committee is responsible for administering the Code and overseeing its enforcement.

The process for reporting and resolving violations changed in 2005 with the hope of increasing compliance with the code. Prof. Jacobs said that previously, there was no central storage of honor code violation data which caused a disjoint because students could violate in different colleges and patterns of violations across the colleges went undetected. He explained that the current policy requires every violation to be reported to the Provost Office.

In the past, there was only a single path for violators: all allegations would go to a hearing, a responsible or non-responsible verdict would be determined by a panel of faculty and students, and a sanction would be administered. Now, students and faculty have a second option which avoids a hearing. The student and faculty member can have a discussion about an appropriate penalty for the violation and complete and sign an honor code violation report that describes the event and the agreed-upon sanctions. Students are given a seven day window to revoke their signature. This violation remains confidential between the student, faculty member, and Provost Office. Only in the case of a second violation would a coach or academic advisor become informed of a violation. A second offense also results in documentation on the student's transcript stating, for example, "Suspended Fall 08 for Honor Code Violation."

Mr. Burns asked if there are any training programs in place to educate students about the honor code. Prof. Jacobs explained that each student that enrolls in the university is given a student guide which details the policy and that they must take an on-line orientation to the honor code. The orientation presents the students with eight cases in which they must decide whether the actions depicted are in violation of the Code and why. The students must answer six of eight correctly to prove their understanding of the Code. They are then presented with a pledge which they must sign in order to be able to register for courses.

Prof. Jacobs also makes presentations at the first-year and transfer orientations and is invited by Mr. Holmes to talk to student-athletes involved in the Summer Bridge Program. Mr. Holmes added that the honor code is discussed at every team orientation each year and that coaches typically address it as well. Discussion ensued regarding the policy and training possibilities. Prof. Jacobs asked members to please contact him if they have any more ideas to share.

## **7. Subcommittee reports:**

### **Academic Integrity**

Prof. Weber, chair of the Academic Integrity subcommittee, solicited input from members of his subcommittee and the Board at-large, to develop a list of relevant issues for his subcommittee to consider. The subcommittee will meet this Wednesday to prioritize these issues and will then take council from the larger committee and handle only a small subset of the issues identified. He noted that one item that the group plans to address is how to increase communication between faculty and athletic advisors.

### **Student Welfare**

Mr. Burns, chair of the Student Welfare subcommittee, noted that his subcommittee met to discuss relevant issues for them to address this academic year including course availability, freshman rooming concerns, and student-athlete football ticket purchases. The concern regarding course availability is that as the academic day is extended and more courses are offered later in the day, conflicts are created between classes and practice time. The concern regarding freshman rooming is that some student-athletes live in four-person rooms with students that are not student-athletes. Conflicts arise when they do not all follow the same schedule. A final issue Mr. Burns addressed is the football ticket sales to student-athletes. He said that currently, student-athletes are only offered the option to purchase a full-season ticket booklet, despite the fact that some fall sport teams are unable to attend all football game because of their own team's competition and travel schedule. Mr. Burns expressed interest in finding ways that fall sport student-athletes could have the opportunity to purchase football tickets for only those games which they can attend.

Mr. Burns added that Tim Welsh, Men's Swimming Head Coach, is interested in developing an athletic retreat to bring student-athletes from our competing institutions onto Notre Dame's campus for a three-day event. Coach Welsh envisions the retreat including a lecture series by a prominent sports figure and a showcase of athletic events. Mr. Burns plans to meet with Coach Welsh and will then bring recommendations and suggestions to Board for consideration.

## **8. Team Liaison updates:**

Mr. Burns met with the Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving teams and attended some practices and a meet. He informed the Board that both teams are doing well, are motivated, and understand the role of the Board at the University.

Prof. Pierce has met with the coaches and attended competitions for both the Hockey and Men's Soccer teams.

Prof. Bellia is the Board liaison to Volleyball and Men's and Women's Tennis. She has met with both Volleyball and Women's Tennis and has been in communication regarding dates for a meeting with Men's Tennis. She also mentioned that the Volleyball team had two huge wins this past weekend which assures them a position in the Big East tournament. Women's Tennis players Brook Buck and Kelcy Tefft won the doubles title at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Indoor National Championship.

Prof. McDowell reported that the Softball team recently returned from a foreign tour in Italy where they were successful in competition and enjoyed sightseeing. Prof. McDowell also attended one of the team's fall scrimmages. Rowing has completed its fall season.

Prof. Rhodes met with the Women's Cross Country team a couple of times and noted the coach's responsiveness to any team concerns. He also said that the team is comfortable contacting Prof. Rhodes directly regarding any concerns. Prof. Rhodes reported attending a number of Men's Basketball practices as well.

Prof. Weber has met regularly with both Men's and Women's Golf and had both teams to his house. He mentioned the teams' growing concerns with the policy on class misses as well as their ability to enroll in morning classes since the team often holds practice in the morning.

## **9. Ex officio and Liaison reports:**

Both Fr. Poorman and Mr. Holmes plan to share their respective annual reports at the December 17, 2007 Board meeting.

Dr. Shavers noted that there were small changes in the University's Drug Testing Program and that she will give a report to the Board at the end of the academic year.

## **10. New Business:**

The Chair reminded the Board that the Faculty Board Manual is reviewed periodically to examine the policies and procedures contained therein and to determine if there are any areas that warrant updating or clarifying language. He then charged the Student Welfare subcommittee with the responsibility of performing a review of the manual and reporting back to the full Board by its April meeting.

The Chair also reminded members to provide Ms. Lam with the times that they are available to meet next semester as meeting times will be based on those who respond.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.