

FBA Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2007
Room 500, Main Building

Members: Prof. Donald Pope-Davis (Chair); Prof. Patricia Bellia; Mr. Michael M. Burns (Student Rep.); Prof. Stephan Fallon; Mr. Patrick Holmes; Prof. William Kelley; Prof. Mary Ann McDowell; Prof. Richard Pierce; (Rev.) Mark Poorman, C.S.C; Prof. Robin Rhodes; and Prof. John Weber

Members absent: Prof. Francis Castellino; Prof. David Kirkner; Dr. Frances Shavers; and Dr. Kevin White

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

Observers and Guests: Ms. Natalie Burke, Vice President, Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC); Kathryn Lam (recorder)

1. Call to order and prayer: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Prof. John Weber offered the opening prayer.

2. Welcome: The Chair welcomed Prof. Mary Ann McDowell to the Board. She introduced herself as a professor from biological sciences and indicated that she was working in Egypt at the time of the first Faculty Board on Athletics gathering of the year.

3. Informational items: The Chair distributed a few informational materials:

- 1) Faculty Board on Athletics profile books. The Chair indicated that these profile books have also been distributed to university officers, college deans, athletic administration, and coaches. They will also be given to the members of the Athletics Affairs committee of the Board of Trustees.
- 2) Updated member contact information sheets
- 3) Updated subcommittee assignments (reflecting revisions made at end of the Board's retreat)
- 4) Subcommittee assignments to Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) meetings. Both subcommittees were assigned to attend half of the SAAC meetings throughout the academic year. The Chair reminded everyone that this process is consistent with last year's practice. He asked for one member of the Board to attend each SAAC meeting. He then asked the chairs of the respective subcommittees to assign a member to each meeting to which their subcommittee was assigned. The Chair asked that the subcommittee chairs inform Ms. Lam of their assignments.

4. Minutes of previous meetings: The minutes from the meetings of May 7, 2007 and May 15, 2007 were approved unanimously.

5. Natalie Burke, Vice President, Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC): Ms. Burke introduced herself as the Vice President of the SAAC and an international student representative.

Ms. Burke outlined the SAAC's goals for the 2007-2008 academic year:

- 1) Walk to fight child obesity. This community service activity, organized by the SAAC, will take place in South Bend (not on campus) and will involve children from the community. The day's events will include the walk and entertainment by a band. The SAAC is hopeful that non student-athletes will join student-athletes in this event to help children make healthier choices.
- 2) Sportsmanship Across All Circumstances (SAAC). Initiative began last year as a way to promote sportsmanship and leadership in local middle schools and high schools. In the past the efforts included hanging posters in dorms on campus and running a commercial on television. This year, a "fun" day is being planned where children from the Boys & Girls Club and other local underprivileged youth programs will be invited to campus to interact with student-athletes in games and activities where sportsmanship and leadership are encouraged and discussed.
- 3) Joyce Grant-in-Aid recognition weekend. Opportunity for the donors of athletic grants-in-aid to be recognized and interact with the student-athletes that they support. The weekend's events include lunches, dinners, football pep-rally, locker room tour and community service event in which both the donors and student-athletes participate. Ms. Conboy noted that the student-athlete/donor interaction is very important for the donors and a prime opportunity to showcase the impact the gifts have on the student-athletes. Ms. Conboy also noted that these are substantial gifts as the donors must make a four-year commitment to provide a full grant-in-aid for a single student-athlete. The Chair inquired whether the gift was endowed. Ms. Conboy responded that these are direct, expendable gifts that are managed by Sarah Liebscher in the Development Office.

Given the goals Ms. Burke outlined for the year, she noted that community service is very important to the SAAC and that they organize into smaller committees to manage each activity.

Ms. Burke then shared her thoughts on her experience as an international student-athlete. She has found Notre Dame to be a great place to study. She noted that the school does a great job of integrating the international student-athletes. She consistently receives emails informing her of relevant regulations and events. Some activities are planned to bring the international student-athlete population together to meet each other (e.g., a bowling outing has been scheduled for next week to welcome the new freshman internationals). Ms. Burke also noted that the International Student Services & Activities (ISSA) office in LaFortune is a good resource for international students. Upon the Chair's inquiry, Ms. Burke estimated that there are approximately 30-40 international student-athletes competing at Notre Dame.

Prof. Fallon asked how often the SAAC addresses the needs of all student-athletes as opposed to team-specific items. Ms. Burke responded that they address those items as they are raised. For example, last year student-athletes across many sports were interested in massage therapy. The SAAC addressed the issue with the administration and this year massage therapy services are available. Ms. Burke also shared that the members are in contact with their teammates and bring issues to the SAAC as appropriate.

6. Subcommittee reports:

Academic Integrity

Prof. Weber informed the Board that the Academic Integrity subcommittee met on September 19, 2007 to familiarize new members with the issues the subcommittee has discussed in recent years as well as identify new areas the subcommittee might address. Prof. Weber was selected as chair of the subcommittee.

Prof. Weber distributed a document that outlined the issues the subcommittee has reviewed over the past five years as well as potential new issues to consider. He requested that all Board members share input on what issues should be a priority for this academic year. Prof. Weber commented that in the past, the subcommittee has dealt with issues as they arose, but thinks having a more proactive approach may give attention to new issues. He categorized the issues in two ways:

- 1) Recent and ongoing discussion topics for the FBA Academic Integrity Subcommittee and related FBA deliberations:
 - a. Notre Dame's eligibility requirements
 - b. Class miss policy
 - c. Early entry phenomenon
 - d. Fifth-year eligibility
 - e. Kanaley Award
- 2) Potential "new" areas for FBA Academic Integrity Subcommittee discussions and related FBA deliberations:
 - a. Admissions standards
 - b. Over-representation of student-athletes in honor code violations
 - c. Significant under-representation of Notre Dame student-athletes in certain college and concentrations
 - d. Early graduation for student-athletes pursuing professional athletics
 - e. Early registration privileges / Scheduling pressures
 - f. Statement of Academic Integrity in Intercollegiate Athletics

After summarizing each issue, Prof. Weber again requested counsel from the Board as to what issues the subcommittee should address this year. In the interest of time, the Chair encouraged each member to think about the items and email suggestions to Prof. Weber by Monday, October 8, 2007. The Chair suggested that members think in terms of three major and three minor issues for the subcommittee to consider this academic year. Prof. Weber indicated that he would also email the Board a document that provided more detail about each issue.

Student Welfare:

Mr. Burns informed the Board that the Student Welfare subcommittee met on October 1, 2007, noting that Mr. Holmes and Ms. Lam were also in attendance to help share information with many of the new members of the subcommittee. The group reviewed the subcommittee's charge and discussed what the committee has done in the past. Mr. Burns explained that the subcommittee wants to reach out to student-athletes to determine what issues are most pressing for them today. Mr. Burns asked each member of the Board to talk with their respective assigned teams and coaches and report back (via email) to him with any suggestions that they receive related to student welfare. He will compile the results and then meet with the

subcommittee to determine priorities for the year which the group will then share with the full Board. Prof. Rhodes asked that Mr. Burns email a statement to members of the Board specifying what to ask the coaches so that there is a consistency in the inquiries. Mr. Burns agreed to email all members a statement. Prof. Weber asked that while members are soliciting feedback that they should be open to suggestions relevant for the Academic Integrity subcommittee as well. Mr. Burns also noted that, though not assigned, the Student-Welfare subcommittee plans to have a representative attend the next SAAC meeting so as to help expedite this information gathering process.

7. *Ex officio* and Liaison reports:

The Chair reminded Board members about their liaison responsibilities to the athletic teams, noting that they will be informed of events that take place with opportunities to interact with coaches and student-athletes. He asked that members be persistent in contacting their respective coaches. The Chair also reiterated the expectation that each member will give a report on their team(s) at the end of the team cycle.

Fr. Poorman noted that there was no report from Student Affairs.

Mr. Holmes had no report from his office, but did distribute copies of the newly released NCAA Graduation Success Rate (GSR) reports. Mr. Holmes noted that the 2007 NCAA Graduate Rates report will be released at the end of the month. He informed the group that Notre Dame's results were strong. Upon inquiry from the Chair, Mr. Holmes mentioned that John Heisler, Senior Associate Athletics Director of Media Relations and Sports Information, will provide analysis on how Notre Dame's results compare to its peer institutions.

Ms. Conboy offered her help in establishing contact between Board members and the coaches of their liaison teams. She indicated a willingness to arrange a meeting or lunch and can invite another administrator as well.

A number of members provided brief updates on the status of their teams. Prof. Bellia invited members to the "Dig for the Cure" volleyball game on Saturday. Prof. Fallon was optimistic about the progress of the women's soccer team at this point in the season. Prof. Rhodes noted that he met with Tim Connelly, women's cross country head coach, and Mike Brey, men's basketball. Prof. Weber added that he has regularly been in contact with the men's and women's golf teams and that he has invited both teams to his home.

Ms. Conboy mentioned that the schedule for the Joyce Center renovation was recently announced. Specifically, she noted that the timetable is to begin next September with the addition to the south end of the building. Arena seating is scheduled for renovation starting after graduation in May 2009, with plans for completion in January 2010. Ms. Conboy explained that the athletic department is currently in a heavy communication plan to determine where to put various entities that are affected by the renovations and possibly permanently relocating some of those entities. Mr. Weber asked if a contingency plan was in place given that projects of this nature often run longer than planned. Ms. Conboy noted that there is no such plan in place. When asked if the total seating will be reduced, she said the final number has not yet been set,

but that it should be around ten thousand seats. She also mentioned a change in the plans of the south end addition which will now include three levels instead of two:

1st floor: 2-story lobby, varsity shop, and ticketing operations

2nd floor: food court

3rd floor: club seating and hospitality area

The Chair asked that Ms. Conboy provide an update on the changes in the facilities master plan at the Board's next meeting in November. Ms. Conboy agreed under the condition that the Board of Trustees approves the plans at their October meeting.

Mr. Karwoski let the Board know that the new Off-Campus Housing Policy, as amended by the Board in May, has been communicated to all coaches and student-athletes (other than senior student-athletes). Mr. Karwoski noted that the new policy was not sent to current senior student-athletes to avoid confusion since their housing requests (made in their junior year) were not covered by the new policy.

8. New Business

No new business discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.