

**FBA Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 13, 2007
500 Main Building**

Members present: Prof. Donald Pope-Davis (Chair); Prof. Harvey Bender; Prof. Eileen Botting; Prof. Stephen Fallon; Mr. Patrick Holmes; Prof. David Kirkner; Ms. Kathryn Lam (Student Rep.); Prof. Daniel Lapsley; Prof. Richard Pierce; (Rev.) Mark Poorman, C.S.C.; Dr. Frances Shavers; Prof. John Weber.

Members absent: Prof. Francis Castellino, Prof. Vincent Rougeau, Dr. Kevin White

Board Liaisons present: Ms. Missy Conboy, Mr. Michael Karwoski of the Department of Athletics

Observers and Guests: Ms. Mary Hendriksen, executive assistant to Prof. Pope-Davis; Ms. Kitty Cooney Hoyer, recorder.

1. Call to Order and prayer: The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Prof. Botting offered a prayer.

2. Minutes of previous meeting: After four minor corrections to the minutes of the meeting of March 19, 2007, they were approved unanimously.

3. Information Items

Prof. Pope-Davis spoke briefly about several articles he distributed on the class-miss policies of other Big East institutions as well as the graduation rates of college student-athletes, particularly the disparity between the graduation rates of African American and white student-athletes.

In addition, members discussed the *Statement on Board Responsibilities for Intercollegiate Athletics*, adopted by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) on March 28, 2004.

4. Subcommittee Reports

Student Welfare – Kathryn Lam

Ms. Lam provided an update on the off-campus housing policy issue raised at a previous FBA meeting. The subcommittee has met with representatives from the coaching staff to discuss the policy. A draft revised policy will be forthcoming.

Communications – Steve Fallon

Prof. Fallon reported that the subcommittee continues to look at fifth-year eligibility data from other schools, specifically regarding student notification dates. The subcommittee will be assessing the data to see if later dates have an adverse affect on student affairs. Mr. Wilcox surveyed schools in the Big East and found that Notre Dame appears to be one of the schools in the conference with a notification date later than others. Prof. Fallon plans to share more complete information at the May meeting.

Prof. Fallon also reported on concerns raised by a colleague in the Philosophy department regarding the availability of McKenna Hall for academic conferences in the fall, when sequential weeks of home football games coupled with fall break make it impossible to schedule an academic conference.

Ms. Conboy noted his concerns and said that while the football schedule is already set years in advance; but, moving forward, she suggested presenting the schedules to the FBA for their input on such matters.

The chair thanked Prof. Fallon and his subcommittee for their work on 5th-year eligibility issues but indicated that this issue resides within the academic integrity subcommittee. Because of subcommittee overlap, the chair asked each subcommittee to develop a written “charge.”

Academic Integrity – Harvey Bender

Prof. Bender reported that the subcommittee has been busy reviewing fifth-year applications of student-athletes. The subcommittee is recommending that 14 student-athletes be granted the opportunity to remain for their 5th year.

Prof. Weber commended Prof. Bender and all those involved in revamping the application process. The files and forms are “significantly richer” than they used to be and therefore allow for more informed decision-making.

Responding to a question from Prof. Kirkner regarding whether candidates are ever denied a fifth year, Prof. Bender explained the evolution of the application process over the past five years. Although most applications were eventually approved in the past, they were often sent back several times for more information. Now, he said, the Board has all the information up front. Very few institutions have as thorough a process, stated Prof. Weber. “It is a real feather in Notre Dame’s cap.”

Prof. Bender also reported on the list of nominees for the Kanaley Award. The subcommittee has reviewed the nominations and is recommending five student-athletes for the award: Greg Dalby (soccer), Ted Brown (swimming), Meghan Murphy (lacrosse), Kimberly Lorenzen (Soccer), and Maryann Erigha (track).

The board revisited the issue of soliciting nominations for the Kanaley Award, with several members offering their suggestions. Mr. Karwoski suggested starting the nomination process earlier so coaching staff has more time evaluate and make their recommendations.

The Board voted unanimously to accept the subcommittee’s nominees for the 2006-07 Kanaley award.

Prof. Pope-Davis agreed to add the Kanaley award process as a future agenda item.

5. Ex officio and Liaison reports

Student Affairs – none

Academic Services for Student-Athletes – none

Office of the President – none

Athletics Department – Mike Karwoski with update on NCAA legislation

Mr. Karwoski gave an update on NCAA legislation, specifically as it relates to a proposal to eliminate text messaging to prospective student-athletes. Board members had indicated in previous meetings their support of eliminating the text messaging option. [The Board of Directors of the NCAA voted to eliminate text messaging; however, several coaches’ associations have petitioned the NCAA for further review.]

6. New Business

(a) Prof. Pierce would like to see the summer bridge program (incoming student-athletes are able to enroll in classes during the summer before their entry into the University) added as a future agenda item.

(b) Prof. Bender offered a resolution in support of the Rutgers women’s basketball team’s actions in response to the comments of radio personality Don Imus. Members offered various comments; ultimately,

the matter was delegated to the subcommittee on communications [which circulated a statement the following week to Board members, approved, and sent to members of the Rutgers athletics department.

On April 15, 2007 the members of our Faculty Board on Athletics passed the following resolution in support of the Women's Basketball Team at Rutgers:

Faculty Board of Athletics
University of Notre Dame
April 16, 2007

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the University of Notre Dame's Faculty Board on Athletics commends the Women's Basketball Program of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, for their demonstrated commitment to the highest principles of intercollegiate athletics.

As a colleague institution in the Big East Conference we join in solidarity with the Rutgers community in expressing our admiration for the way in which the Women's Basketball Team responded to recent national events. The dignity and poise of the Women's Basketball team catalyzed a most significant and meaningful public dialogue that will resonate long beyond the present season.

We congratulate the Rutgers Women's Basketball Team on a successful season, and for their very public example of the character of champions.

(c) Members of the FBA also asked Prof. Pope-Davis to send letters to Mike Brey, head Basketball coach, and Jeff Jackson, head Hockey coach, congratulating them on team and personal honors in the 2006-2007 season. [Letters were sent April 23, 2007.]

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Fr. Poorman and seconded by Prof. Pierce. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.