

**Faculty Board on Athletics  
Minutes of the Meeting of September 21, 2006  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Main Building**

**Members present:** Prof. Donald Pope-Davis (Chair); Prof. Patricia Bellia; Prof. Harvey Bender; Prof. Eileen Botting; Prof. Stephen Fallon; Mr. Patrick Holmes; Prof. David Kirkner; Ms. Kathryn Lam (Student Rep.); Prof. Richard Pierce; (Rev.) Mark Poorman, C.S.C.; Prof. F. Clark Power; Dr. Frances Shavers; Prof. John Weber; and Dr. Kevin White.

**Members absent:** Prof. Francis Castellino

**Observers present:** Mr. Michael Karwoski and Mr. Stan Wilcox of the Department of Athletics; Ms. Mary Hendriksen, executive assistant to Prof. Pope-Davis; and Ms. Kitty Cooney Hoye, recorder.

**Guests present:** Mr. James Fraleigh of the Athletic Department; Ms. Kenya Fuemmeler (Student Athlete Activities Council President).

**1. Call to Order and prayer:** Prof. Pope-Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.; Prof. Botting led the group in prayer.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting:** Prof. Bender moved for approval of the minutes from the meeting of May 8, 2006; Prof. Botting seconded his motion, which passed unanimously.

**3. Announcements:** Describing his recent appointment as chair of the Faculty Board on Athletics as both an honor and an extremely important responsibility, Prof. Pope-Davis expressed his gratitude to the FBA members for their confidence and support. He also thanked members for attending a very productive one-day FBA retreat in August.

The Chair asked the three standing committees of the FBA—Academic Integrity, Communications, and Student Affairs—to meet over the course of the next month to elect a chair and to develop an agenda for the year. He extended an invitation to the *ex officio* members of the board to attend one or more of the subcommittee meetings.

Prof. Pope-Davis said he has observed that many of Notre Dame's student-athletes are either unaware of the FBA or confused about its role. He would like the board to explore ways to become more visible among the student-athletes, as well as among the faculty and on campus in general. One way for the board to gain exposure is the new FBA membership booklet, which contains individual member photographs and profiles. The booklet is already in production and will be distributed to several constituencies on campus, including the officers' group, college deans, department heads, head coaches, and student-athletes.

The Chair said that he would also like to see FBA members develop better relationships with student-athletes and coaching staffs. Doing so, he pointed out, would not only provide added visibility for the board but would also facilitate a fuller discussion when student-related and team-related issues arise. The Chair proposed that each FBA member "adopt" or be assigned to one or more athletic teams. Members would be asked to make connections and to establish relationships with members of the team(s) and coaching staff. For example, members could attend a practice, meet with the coaching staff, and on occasion, travel with the team. The Chair distributed a short questionnaire to those members present asking them to identify one or more teams of particular interest. He will be making assignments pairing FBA members with teams in the following weeks.

The Chair then introduced current Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) president, Ms. Kenya Fuemmeler (Softball), to give a report on council news and events. After thanking the Chair for the opportunity to address the FBA, Ms. Fuemmeler reviewed the role of the student advisory council and distributed a handout that included the group's by-laws and mission statement, as well as a schedule of its meetings for the entire academic year. Ms. Fuemmeler extended an invitation to FBA members to attend the SAAC meetings. At Prof. Power's suggestion, Ms. Fuemmeler agreed to send FBA members a copy of the SAAC meeting agenda prior to the group's scheduled meetings.

Ms. Fuemmeler also extended an invitation to all FBA members to attend a dinner for first-year student-athletes at Dr. White's house on October 2, 2006.

Stressing that one of SAAC's primary goals is to "promote efficient communication" between student-athletes and the administration, Ms. Fuemmeler proposed that a SAAC member formally serve on the FBA. By doing so, she explained, both groups would have a better understanding of "where each is coming from" when making relevant decisions. A brief discussion followed, with Ms. Fuemmeler emphasizing that it is the SAAC's desire to explore any possible opportunities that might allow for increased communication between the two groups.

The Chair strongly encouraged FBA members to attend the October dinner at Kevin White's home as well as the monthly SAAC meetings. Both events, he said, present excellent opportunities for the board to connect with student-athletes.

**4. Athletic Director Report:** Dr. Kevin White updated the board on news and events from the athletic department, including a current status report on the six fall teams. While all of Notre Dame's teams are enjoying great success this season, topping the list is Women's Soccer, which remains undefeated (8-0) and is currently ranked #1 in the country. The football team is also ranked in the top 20 nationally,

The athletic department has hired 46 new staff members (44 full-time, 2 part-time), including 13 new assistant coaches. Dr. White then discussed the appointment of Mr. Dave Schrage as the University's new head baseball coach. Coach Schrage has nearly 20 years of head coaching experience, including 16 years at the Division 1 level. He just completed his fourth year as head coach at the University of Evansville, where his 2006 team finished with a Top-20 national ranking in the *Collegiate Baseball* magazine poll.

Dr. White then introduced Mr. Jim Fraleigh, assistant athletic director, for a report on recent changes within the women's golf program. After the resignation of Coach Debby King this summer, an exhaustive national search took place—with 12 candidates identified initially and the pool then narrowed down to the three candidates who were interviewed for the position. Mr. Fraleigh announced that Ms. Susan Holt, former head coach at the University of South Florida (1993-2006) and Purdue University (1990-1993), has been named head coach of the ND women's golf team. Coach Holt directed the USF program to 16 team titles and 17 runner-up titles, including five of 10 Conference USA Championships. She has guided the team and/or individuals to 11 NCAA Regional appearances and two consecutive trips to the NCAA finals. Having only been on board for two weeks, Coach Holt has already secured two verbal commitments from the top 35 players in the country.

Dr. White also provided the board with an update on the overall facilities plan for the athletic department. Although he was not at liberty to discuss any details at this time, Dr. White informed the board that plans are underway for a multi-million dollar facelift to Joyce South (which includes men's and women's basketball facilities). An announcement is scheduled within the next two weeks, with work projected to begin in March 2008. The renovations are expected to take 12 months but should not pose any major disruptions to regularly scheduled games. Dr. White announced that work on the new indoor golf facility is complete and plans are underway to

officially open the building soon. Dr. White described the new building as an outstanding facility and one that will level the playing field for ND.

Prof. Weber asked Dr. White and Mr. Wilcox for some clarification of the early-entrance policy with respect to new football recruits, specifically on whether there will be a cap on the number of students who will be granted early admission in January. Mr. Wilcox explained that the department has set an internal cap at four students, adding that a committee made up of both faculty and administrative staff (Fr. Poorman; Prof. Pope-Davis; Prof. Hugh Page, Dean, First Year of Studies; Prof. Chris Maziar, vice president and associate provost; Dan Saracino, associate provost for enrollment; Kevin Rooney; associate dean, First Year of Studies; Mr. Wilcox; Mr. Holmes; and Mr. Karwoski) thoroughly reviews all applications for early admission. Mr. Wilcox said that he does not anticipate increasing the cap in the near future, adding that any decision to do so would be brought to the board's attention.

**5. Compliance report:** Mr. Karwoski briefly reviewed two compliance-related issues that were recently brought to the attention of his staff. One issue involved a local television sports program that used footage (less than 20 seconds) of three student-athletes as "bumpers" or segues between their programming.

As this meeting was the first of the year, there were no subcommittee reports. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.