



## FACULTY BOARD ON ATHLETICS UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

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Meeting of May 2, 2005  
Monogram Room, Joyce Center

**Members Present:** Prof. Fernand Dutile (Chair); Prof. Patricia Bellia; Prof. Harvey Bender; Prof. Eileen Botting; Mr. Bobby Brown; Prof. Stephen Fallon; Prof. Umesh Garg; Mr. Patrick Holmes; (Rev.) Peter Jarret, C.S.C.; Prof. David Kirkner; (Rev.) Mark Poorman, C.S.C.; Prof. Donald Pope-Davis; Prof. F. Clark Power; Prof. John Weber; and Dr. Kevin White.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Observers Present:** Ms. Missy Conboy and Mr. Bernard Muir of the Department of Athletics; Ms. Kitty Hoyer, recorder.

**Guests:** Dr. Frances Shavers, executive assistant to president-elect John Jenkins, C.S.C.; Mr. Jim Kubinski, head coach for men's golf; and Mr. Mike Brey, head coach for men's basketball.

**1. Call to order and prayer:** The Chair called the group to order at 10:00 a.m.; Father Jarret led the group in prayer.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**[Board members approved the minutes for the meeting of March 17, 2005, in an e-mail vote that became official on May 6.]

**3. Announcements:** At this point, the Chair introduced to the Board Dr. Frances Shavers, newly appointed executive assistant to president-elect Father Jenkins. Father Jenkins has asked Dr. Shavers to serve as his representative to the Faculty Board on Athletics upon his assumption of the office of president on July 1, 2005.

The Chair reported to the Board on other changes in its membership for the coming academic year. The Chair noted for the record that Father Jenkins has re-appointed Prof. Pope-Davis to his second three-year term and Mr. Brown to his third one-year term. Also, both Prof. Weber and Prof. Fallon have been re-elected by their respective Colleges to a second three-year term. Only one position remains open for the next academic year; the College of Science has not yet conducted its election with regard to that position. [Shortly after this meeting, the College of

Science elected Prof. Francis Castellino, Kleiderer-Pezold Professor of Biochemistry, to a three-year term on the Board.]

The Chair announced that he had approved, on the Board's behalf, the schedule for men's golf for spring 2005. (At its meeting of November 18, 2004, the Board had approved a fourth class-miss day in the Monday-Wednesday-Friday sequence for that team during the spring semester.) Due to flight complications, the Chair has also approved amendments to that schedule. Thursday, March 31; Monday, April 4; and the afternoon of Thursday, April 14 (for two student-athletes only) have been added as excused-absence days. Despite these amendments, only one student-athlete missed a fifth day in the Monday-Wednesday-Friday sequence, and no student-athlete missed more than three days in the Tuesday-Thursday sequence.

The Chair also approved Monday, April 4, and Monday, April 25, as excused-absence days for baseball and softball. Due to weather complications, play on these two days became necessary under the mandatory make-up rules of the Big East Conference. The Chair also approved an additional baseball game against Manchester College on April 28, replacing an earlier game cancelled due to weather. The April 28 game took place at home and implicated no class misses.

The Chair also announced that he had approved the following captaincies for the 2005-06 academic year: women's track and field (Kerry Meagher); men's track and field (Selim Nurudeen and Chip Roberts); men's swimming (Patrick Heffernan and Jamie Lutkus); men's soccer (Dale Rellas, Greg Dalby and John Stephens); women's soccer (a slate of nominees from which the ultimate captains will be chosen); men's tennis (Patrick Buchanan and Eric Langenkamp); football (Brandon Hoyte and Brady Quinn); and hockey (Taylor Jindra, Jason Paige and Michael Walsh). The Board ratified these decisions of the Chair.

**4. Tour of Guglielmino Athletics Complex:** [At this point, the Faculty Board on Athletics toured the Guglielmino Athletics Complex, now mid-construction. Dr. Thomas W. Kelly, a former associate athletics director at Notre Dame who played a major role in planning the Complex, led the tour. The meeting then resumed in the Monogram Room of the Joyce Center.]

**5. Introduction of New Coach for Men's Golf:** The Chair introduced to the Board the new head coach for men's golf, Mr. Jim Kubinski. Coach Kubinski, who comes to Notre Dame by way of Duke University, briefly addressed the Board. He thanked the Board for the invitation to speak with it. He indicated his delight at the opportunity to coach at Notre Dame. He stressed how happy he was to see his team win the Big East Championship just a few months after his arrival at Notre Dame. Although he appreciated the importance of the University's requirements with regard to team travel, noting their helpfulness in building schedules, he did stress that providing a competitive schedule for his team within these requirements will continue to present a challenge for him. In response to a question from Prof. Weber concerning the team's prospects, Coach Kubinski answered with an enthusiastic "Excellent!" Recruiting, he added, goes extremely well. Father Poorman: How do you recruit student-athletes from warm-weather states? Coach Kubinski: To be sure, geography speaks volumes to golf-team prospects. That will continue to be one of our biggest hurdles. Nonetheless, the academic environment at Notre Dame provides a tremendous appeal. Moreover, the new practice facility at the Warren Golf Course will serve us well as a recruiting tool. I came here in the middle of the year and

survived; student-athletes can too. We just have to find student-athletes who fit at Notre Dame academically, athletically and so forth. Prof. Fallon asked how Notre Dame compares with Duke insofar as recruiting is concerned. Coach Kubinski: I haven't yet had a good chance to make that comparison, but I am scheduled to sit down with admissions officials within the next few weeks to discuss the criteria. Mr. Muir added that the Warren practice facility referred to by Coach Kubinski will provide a 10,000-square-foot indoor-outdoor facility that will enable student-athletes to hone their golf prowess year-round. Located just north of the golf course's current maintenance facilities, the structure should be completed by 2006. At this point, the Chair thanked Coach Kubinski for meeting with the Faculty Board and wished him every success.

**6. Proposed Study-Day Game for Men's Basketball – Fall 2005:** Mr. Mike Brey, head coach for men's basketball, appeared before the Board to discuss his proposal that the team play a regular-season, non-conference game on December 10, 2005, a study day at Notre Dame. Coach Brey pointed out that the team has played such a game during study days in four out of the past five years. Two reasons support such a game. First, developing a schedule for men's basketball has become quite difficult, in large part because of the limited availability of our arena; the team shares the Joyce Center with both volleyball and women's basketball. Second, without such a game, the team would not play from December 8 through December 22; that period of inactivity, a long time to be "off the floor," would put us at a huge competitive disadvantage. Competing that study-day weekend allows us to schedule a non-conference game before the Big East slate begins. He added that playing "another key date" in the first semester takes some of the pressure off the team's demanding second-semester schedule. These study-day events usually take place at home. Only one of the previous four has been away; since the opponent was DePaul University, in Chicago, we were able to go there and back the same day. In fall 2006, we would not schedule any charter or overnight trips during the study-day period. Coach Brey added that his student-athletes "are doing a fabulous job academically." The team's cumulative grade-point average stands above the 3.0 level. At this point, the Chair thanked Coach Brey for presenting this issue to the Board. After Coach Brey left the room, the Chair opened the issue to discussion. Prof. Garg: The basketball team has asked for such a game in each of the last six years. It can be assumed that such requests will continue. Would it be wise to pass a resolution allowing such a game every year? Both the Chair and Dr. White agreed that dealing with these situations on an "ad hoc" basis keeps the "baseline" where it is. If the study-day game becomes part of the general rule, we risk still further schedule erosion in men's basketball and all other sports. Prof. Fallon moved that men's basketball be allowed to schedule a study-day game on December 10, 2005, as part of the "limited non-conference" competition allowed by University regulations. Prof. Kirkner seconded that motion. Prof. Weber stressed that the motion applies to fall 2005 only. Any perception that the waiver constitutes a general amendment of University guidelines could carry with it a significant negative impact. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

**7. Petitions for a Fifth Year of Eligibility (Spring Sports):** Prof. Bender, as chair of the subcommittee on academic integrity, brought to the Board the petitions of four student-athletes requesting a fifth year of eligibility: Meghan Boyle (crew); Carol Dixon (women's lacrosse); Matt Edwards (baseball); and Emily Loomis (women's track). He provided for members of the Board a written summary of the four cases. He voiced his opinion that all the petitions "are in order"; he moved their approval. (The motion required no second, since it emanated from the chair of a subcommittee.) [As usual, for privacy reasons these public minutes do not include

discussion relating to individual student-athletes]. The Board unanimously approved the four applications for a fifth year of eligibility.

**8. Report on Disciplinary Matters Related to Student-Athletes:** Father Poorman, vice-president for student affairs, presented to the Board his annual report, including a written summary, on disciplinary matters as they relate to student-athletes. After his presentation, he took questions. Following the Faculty Board's extensive discussion of both process and substance, the Chair thanked Father Poorman for his report.

**9. Report on Notre Dame's Student-Athlete Profile:** Mr. Holmes, director of the Office of Academic Services for Student-Athletes, provided the Board with his annual report on the "student-athlete profile." At Notre Dame, 682 student-athletes participate on 26 varsity teams; this number represents 8.2% of Notre Dame's undergraduate population. Of these student-athletes, 421 (or 61.7%) receive a grant-in-aid. Women represent 43.2% of student-athletes receiving grants-in-aid and receive 41.3% of the amount awarded in the form of grants-in-aid. Women represent 46.9% of the Notre Dame undergraduate population and 42.4% of the Notre Dame student-athlete population. Minorities represent 18% of the undergraduate population and 16.7% of the student-athlete population. African-Americans represent 3.7% of Notre Dame's undergraduate population and 11.7% of its student-athlete population. African-American males represent 3.6% of the Notre Dame population and 16% of the student-athlete population. Among all African-American male undergraduates, 40.1% are student-athletes. With regard to religion, 83.8% of Notre Dame undergraduates, and 66.1% of Notre Dame student-athletes, are Roman Catholic. With regard to individual Colleges, 53.2% of Notre Dame undergraduates are enrolled in either Arts and Letters (34.2%) or Business Administration (19%); 60.7% of Notre Dame's student-athletes are enrolled in either Arts and Letters (31.7%) or Business Administration (29%). Engineering (8.7%) and Science (11.4%) account for 20.1% of Notre Dame undergraduates. Engineering (4.5%) and Science (5%) account for 9.5% of Notre Dame student-athletes. The most popular majors for Notre Dame undergraduates are Political Science (8.3%), Psychology (5.8%), English (5.6%), Finance (5.5%) and Science Pre-Professional (5.4%). The corresponding numbers for Notre Dame student-athletes: Finance (10.1%), Marketing (9.3%), Psychology (7.5%), Sociology (6.5%) and Political Science (4.6%). For male student-athletes, the most popular majors are Finance, Marketing, Sociology, Accounting and Mechanical Engineering. For female student-athletes, the most popular majors are Psychology, Marketing, English, Political Science and Anthropology. With regard to test scores, the average SAT for non student-athletes is 1370; that for student-athletes is 1220 (1210 for men and 1234 for women). The average SAT for all grant-in-aid student-athletes is 1162 (1148 for men and 1181 for women). After the fall 2004 semester, the average cumulative grade-point average for all students stood at 3.356, that for all student-athletes at 3.112, and that for all grant-in-aid student-athletes at 3.065. Finally, with regard to 2005 NCAA Graduation Rates, 91% of first-year grant-in-aid student-athletes who enrolled in the fall of 1998 have graduated. Notre Dame's four-class average (first-year grant-in-aid student-athletes enrolling in 1995 through 1998) is 90%. Notre Dame's supplemental graduation rate, which charts the graduation percentage of student-athletes who have exhausted their eligibility at the University during a ten-year period (1989 through 1998), is 99.5%. These figures come directly from the Office of Institutional Research. In response to a question from Prof. Pope-Davis, Father Poorman noted that the overall percentage of Roman Catholics has fallen, though by very little. Prof. Kirkner observed

that the percentage of student-athletes in the Colleges of Arts and Letters and Business Administration might rise to 70% were student-athletes in the First Year of Studies pulled out of the calculation. Prof. Garg asked Mr. Holmes to explain the supplemental graduation rate. Mr. Holmes informed the Board that the NCAA employs a ten-year window. Using that window, we track the graduation percentage of all grant-in-aid student-athletes who have completed their eligibility. Ideally, of course, that number should be 100%; Notre Dame's is 99.5%. Mr. Holmes noted that the current NCAA graduation-rate methodology counts as a negative any student-athlete who, despite being in good academic standing, transfers out of the University. Under the NCAA's new Academic Performance Program, however, student-athletes leaving in "good academic standing" will not hurt our Graduation Success Rate. Mr. Brown asked how "good academic standing" gets defined under the new plan. Mr. Holmes: Each institution determines its own standard. Father Poorman added that Notre Dame uses a higher standard for "good academic standing" than do some other institutions. Prof. Bender noted that the NCAA already allows universities to bring basketball players, both men and women, to campus for the summer prior to their enrollment in order to facilitate their transition into college life. What about a similar plan for football? Mr. Holmes responded that the NCAA used basketball as a pilot program. Now, in fact, all incoming grant-in-aid student-athletes may come to the institution to earn credit during the summer prior to their first year of enrollment. The NCAA requires only that the selection of student-athletes for any such summer program be based on criteria not related to athletics. We looked for student-athletes who would most benefit from such a program. A committee comprising Mr. Daniel J. Saracino (assistant provost for admissions), Mr. Kevin M. Rooney (associate dean in the First Year of Studies), Mr. Holmes (director of the Office of Academic Services for Student-Athletes), and the Chair of the Faculty Board on Athletics made the actual selections. The Chair added that the process took place anonymously; the committee did not know the student-athlete's sport, race, gender or religion. The student-athlete's high school, curriculum, grades, SAT or ACT score, intended major and the like were considered. Prof. Pope-Davis: Do we have any data concerning the success or failure of the program with regard to basketball players? Mr. Holmes answered that it is still too early to tell. He did note that, in women's basketball, the first group to be eligible for the program just graduated all five of its members.

**10. Report on the BCS:** Dr. White reported to the Board with respect to Notre Dame's position under the new BCS Bowl arrangement. That arrangement covers the four-year period from 2006-07 through 2009-10. The two "key" issues in our negotiations, access points and payout, appear to be resolved. The "access points" issue addresses the conditions under which Notre Dame might appear in a BCS Bowl. "Payout," of course, relates to financial remuneration. With respect to access points, Dr. White continued, Notre Dame actually ends up in a better position under the new arrangement. Currently, we get automatic access when we are ranked number six or better. The new model gives Notre Dame automatic access when we are ranked number eight or better. This relates directly to the fact that the current model calls for eight access points (four games) while the new model provides ten access points (five games). Even without automatic access, Notre Dame will remain eligible for an at-large invitation when it has at least nine wins and a ranking of twelve or better. With regard to access points, therefore, the new model provides a tremendous positive for us.

The payout issue may not be as positive, Dr. White said, although this judgment depends on one's perspective. The current model provides a "feast or famine" feature for Notre Dame; in other words, we get paid a very large amount, but only when we actually appear in a BCS Bowl game. The new model attempts to treat Notre Dame as if it were a member of a conference. Accordingly, we will receive 1/66th (approximately \$1.3 million) of the annual share in years in which we do not play. When we do play, Notre Dame will receive \$4.5 million or a second-team share (in other words, the amount of money earned by a conference for having a second conference team in a BCS Bowl game), whichever is higher. In any event, however one looks at it, this arrangement represents the very best we were able to get. In fact, if you "do the math," the new model still provides us with a tremendous financial advantage over our peers. Accordingly, it is hard to "bellyache" about the new arrangement or, for that matter, "crow" about it. It is what it is: the new reality. Why, Prof. Kirkner asked, does Dr. White feel that the deal is not a great one? Because, Dr. White replied, I kind of dislike losing the "feast or famine" feature. Prof. Bender asked about the "twelfth game" issue. Dr. White responded that the NCAA has approved twelve-game seasons for all Division I-A institutions (until that change, such institutions could schedule a twelfth game only in those calendar years having an extra Saturday during the playing season). We are looking, he continued, at some really creative ways to use that option. Our primary target is a 7-4-1 scheme under which we play seven home games at Notre Dame Stadium, one home game at a "neutral" site, for example Chicago or Jacksonville, and four away games in so-called "return" games, *i.e.*, games against teams who would then reciprocate with a game at Notre Dame during some other season. Prof. Bender asked how all this affects our contract with NBC. Dr. White: The arrangement gives the network more games and therefore brings them significant resources. It certainly enhances their access to games. The Chair thanked Dr. White for his report.

**11. Reports of Subcommittee Chairs:** Prof. Garg, chair of the subcommittee on student welfare, provided the Board with an "update" on the issue of student-athlete access to religious services, an issue discussed at the previous meeting. Prof. Garg informed the Board that the subcommittee presented the issue at a meeting of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council, a group made up of delegates from each of our varsity teams. At that meeting, SAAC members were asked to invite their teammates to e-mail any related concerns to Prof. Garg. Interestingly, he noted, although the issue had originally been raised with regard to non-Catholic students, every e-mail message he received came from a Catholic student-athlete. Some student-athletes expressed the view that their coaches did not do enough to provide student-athletes with an opportunity to attend Sunday Mass while on the road. Women athletes, especially, voiced concern about a lack of religious services. Of the eight e-mail messages Prof. Garg received, four came from student-athletes on the same team. Prof. Botting added that she and Mr. Brown, on behalf of the subcommittee, raised the issue at a meeting of Notre Dame head coaches. These coaches proved very open to the discussion and very aware that non-Catholic students might be reluctant to speak on the issue. The head coaches, Prof. Botting stressed, remain very positive with regard to religious participation and very open to ideas, for example focus groups or surveys, that might provide perspective. The Chair noted that, with regard to Sunday Mass attendance, there are many opportunities on campus Sunday evenings, a time during which very few teams find themselves away from campus. Prof. Pope-Davis asked whether any thought has been given to putting a chapel in the new Guglielmino Athletics Complex. Actually, Dr. White replied, the opening of the Complex will make more space available in the Joyce Center. Much

remains to be decided, but the creation of some kind of religious space in the Joyce Center will receive serious consideration.

For the subcommittee on academic integrity, Prof. Bender reported that the proposed conference on athletics and religion remains very much “in the works.” He invited anyone on the Board interested in assisting the subcommittee in planning this conference to attend the subcommittee’s meetings. He added that the subcommittee continues to discuss issues surrounding the fifth year of eligibility, especially with regard to “unclassified graduate students.” We must find some way to create, for this category of student-athlete, a structured curriculum that is both inviting and engaging. Prof. Pope-Davis added that we need to systematically identify more courses, “system-wide,” that better engage these student-athletes. This issue continues, he asserted, to be a great concern for many of us.

**12. New Business:** Prof. Bender, as chair of the subcommittee on academic integrity, reported that the subcommittee, at the request of the Board, has revisited the issue relating to the number of credits University regulations require student-athletes to undertake when completing their undergraduate degree during a fifth year of eligibility. The subcommittee, along with the Chair of the Faculty Board, met with assistant dean Ava Preacher concerning this issue. Dean Preacher restated her view that student-athletes finishing their undergraduate degree in their ninth semester should be allowed to carry as few credits as required to finish the degree. Currently, Notre Dame mandates that such student-athletes undertake nine credits. The NCAA, in contrast, allows student-athletes to take as few credits as are required to complete the degree in any semester. Interestingly, our regulations do allow student-athletes finishing the degree in their eighth semester to take fewer than nine hours. Prof. Bender indicated his agreement with Dean Preacher’s view and proposed that the Board amend its regulations to provide student-athletes completing their degree during the ninth semester the same flexibility enjoyed by student-athletes completing their degree during the eighth semester. Thanking Prof. Bender for his presentation, the Chair noted that a vote on any such change would require advance notice to the Board. Since the proposal for such a change did not appear on today’s agenda, he suggested that the matter be placed on the agenda for the first meeting of the next academic year.

At this point, the Chair thanked Dr. White for hosting today’s meeting. He also thanked members of the Board for all their work during this academic year, one which, all would agree, presented special challenges.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

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