



FACULTY BOARD ON ATHLETICS UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Meeting of May 13, 2003

5th Floor Conference Room, Main Building

Members Present: Prof. Fernand Dutile (chair); Prof. Matthew Barrett; Prof. Harvey Bender; Prof. William Berry; Ms. Emily Bienko; Prof. John Borkowski; Prof. Stephen Fallon; Mr. Patrick Holmes; Prof. Donald Pope-Davis; and Dr. Kevin White.

Members Absent: Dr. Matthew Cullinan; Prof. Umesh Garg; (Rev.) Mark Poorman, C.S.C.; Prof. Katherine Spiess; and Prof. John Weber.

Observers Present: Ms. Missy Conboy and Mr. Bernard Muir, both of the Department of Athletics; and Ms. Mary Hendriksen, recorder.

1. Call to order and prayer: The chair called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. Prof. Pope-Davis led the group in prayer.

2. Minutes of previous meeting: Prof. Berry moved that the minutes of April 10, 2003, be approved. Prof. Barrett seconded that motion, which passed unanimously.

3. Announcements: The chair announced that he had approved, on the Board's behalf, the hockey schedule for 2003-04. The chair announced for the record that the Board had approved, through its e-mail vote, an excused absence for the rowing team's post-noon classes on April 22, 2003, in connection with its race at Michigan State University.

The chair announced that he had approved the following captains for the academic year 2003-04: Kristen Kinder and Jessica Kinder (volleyball); Laurie Musgrave and Lisa Garcia (women's swimming and diving); Greg Martin, Devon Prescod, Chad Riley, Justin Detter and Kevin Richards (men's soccer); and Caylan Leslie and Alicia Salas (women's tennis). The chair also approved a slate of candidates for women's soccer. The team will select its ultimate captains from this group. Finally, the chair noted that through its e-mail vote the Board had declined the proposal of the Department of Athletics to add another student-athlete to its list of Byron V. Kanaley Award winners.

4. Petitions for a fifth year of eligibility: Mr. Holmes, as director of the Office of Academic Services for Student-Athletes, presented six applications for a fifth year of eligibility. Three petitions represented early applications because the student-athletes had not begun their senior years. The Board approved the petitions of the following five student-athletes: Cedric Hilliard (football); Vanessa Pruzinsky (women's soccer); Peter Ogilvie (baseball) [note: Mr. Ogilvie subsequently withdrew his petition for a fifth year of eligibility]; Kerry Walton (women's fencing); and Edward Crosland (men's lacrosse). The Board deferred the sixth petition as premature. [Note: For reasons of privacy, the Board's public minutes do not include any discussion relating to petitioners for a fifth year of eligibility.]

Prof. Bender, in this context, thought it appropriate to elaborate on some of the reflections of the subcommittee on academic integrity, which he chairs and which currently has on its agenda the fifth-year application process and experience. The subcommittee's primary goal: a more meaningful academic experience. Even though some of these fifth-year student-athletes will remain at Notre Dame for only one semester, our job remains to provide them with the best opportunity for a rigorous academic year. Academic advising is the linchpin of this goal. Such advising becomes even more critical for early petitioners for a fifth year. At the Board's first meeting this fall, the subcommittee hopes to present to the Board a new, on-line application form.

Prof. Barrett urged that approval of these "early" petitions be conditioned on the student-athlete remaining in good standing with the Office of Student Affairs and, as well, in good academic standing. The chair, noting that these conditions might be implied in the approval, nonetheless agreed, as did the rest of the Board, that a specific conditioning seemed appropriate.

5. Proposal of men's golf for tournament play on Easter Sunday 2004: Mr. Muir presented to the Board the request of the men's golf team to participate in a tournament that would require play on the morning of Easter Sunday 2004. University guidelines, while allowing teams to compete at away sites during the Triduum, prohibit play prior to noon on Easter Sunday. Mr. Muir stressed that the tournament, to be played at Ohio State University, offers Notre Dame participation in an important and prestigious event. Prof. Barrett asked if Notre Dame could, at this point, think it realistic for men's golf to secure an "at large" NCAA tournament invitation. Mr. Muir responded that Coach Jasinski, based on strength of schedule, feels closer to that goal, although it is clearly not "a lock." Prof. Barrett: Is this a "must-have" event or a "nice-to-be-able-to-go" event? Mr. Muir responded that the tournament offers a top-tier opportunity for competition; the department requests this waiver only because that tournament is important. Ms. Conboy added that this request responds to the department's policy that coaches seek to play a tough schedule. Dr. White stressed the extent to which men's golf has elevated its program. Prof. Borkowski applauded Coach Jasinski for his plan to make religious services available that weekend not only to his team, but also to Catholics on other teams. The motion to approve participation by the men's golf team in a tournament encompassing Easter Sunday morning, 2004, passed unanimously.

6. Student-athlete use of University logos or equipment in non-University events: Mr. Muir informed the Board that the Department of Athletics had drafted a provision regulating student-athlete use of University logos or equipment in outside appearances. The provision, which will appear in the

Student-Athlete Handbook, requires student-athletes to secure permission of the department before such logos or equipment may be used in events not occurring under Notre Dame's aegis. The obvious goal: preventing the appearance of Notre Dame's name or image in association with inappropriate entities. The provision responds to a concern raised by a member of the Board some time ago that Notre Dame football players might appear, for example, in the pages of *Playboy Magazine* as part of an All-American team. Mr. Muir added that university legal counsel has approved the language. Prof. Pope-Davis asked if the provision would bar a student-athlete from appearing in such a picture. No, Mr. Muir responded, but the student-athlete could not use a Notre Dame helmet, uniform, logo or the like. Prof. Pope-Davis: Could Notre Dame's name be used? Ms. Conboy: Only to identify the student-athlete as being from Notre Dame. Mr. Muir added that players have in the past declined such opportunities. Prof. Bender asked whether a comparable policy applies to coaches. Dr. White responded that coaches' contracts include sufficiently protective language to preclude any such questionable activities. For example, our contracts contain language designed to protect "the Catholic character of the University." In fact, the Office of General Counsel has recently received praise for our efforts in this regard. Ms. Conboy added that coaches could be disciplined for anything that embarrasses the University. Dr. White: Despite all this, we should take a new look at those contracts with this issue specifically in mind.

7. Summer-business resolution: The chair reminded the Board that it has traditionally authorized its chair to act on its behalf during the summer. Under such an authorization, the chair reports to the Board, at its first meeting in the fall, any action taken under the authorization. The chair added that the facility for communication presented by e-mail makes the use of such authorization unlikely; indeed, during the last two summers, the authorization had not been invoked once. Still, the chair felt, such a resolution seemed desirable. Prof. Bender moved that authorization, with Prof. Barrett seconding the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

8. Reports of ex-officio members: At the chair's request, Dr. White briefed the Board on the rumored defections to the Atlantic Coast Conference of certain current members of the Big-East Conference and the implications for Notre Dame of these defections.

9. Reports of subcommittee chairs: On behalf of the subcommittee on student welfare, which he chairs, Prof. Barrett reported on the meeting he and fellow subcommittee member Prof. Fallon had on April 23 with Mr. Kevin Rooney, assistant dean, First Year of Studies. That meeting addressed two separate topics – Orientation weekend and academic advising.

On the topic of orientation, Mr. Rooney summarized the three purposes of the weekend as symbolic, informational and social. Although the feedback received by the subcommittee strongly indicated that student-athletes appreciate the social aspects the most, the symbolic and informational parts convey important messages during the weekend. The symbolic aspects include relatively brief comments from the University president, the provost, the vice-president for Student Affairs, the dean of First Year, and the student-government president; a very brief overview of the Honor Code; and an opening Mass, followed by an informal lunch. During the weekend, students also attend informational sessions with their academic advisors and rectors. Mr. Rooney reported that First Year of Studies tries to streamline

the informational sessions and continues to work with University departments and with students, both in student government and on the First Year Advisory Council, to fine-tune the weekend. Mr. Rooney stated that the First Year of Studies strives to keep the informational sessions as few and as short as possible; he noted that if First Year of Studies added to the program everyone wanting to address the incoming students, orientation would last much longer than a weekend.

Turning to academic advising, Mr. Rooney had suggested that the need for academic advisors in First Year of Studies to say “no” to many requests for schedule changes may explain why both student-athletes and other students sometimes evaluate their experiences with their First Year of Studies advisor less positively than their experiences with their college or departmental advisor and, in the case of student-athletes, their advisor in Academic Services for Student-Athletes. He noted, however, that in the most recent (1996) University-wide survey on academic advising, the First Year actually ranked second behind Architecture in this regard. He stated that an academic advisor in First Year of Studies typically works with 175 different students. Beginning in the current academic year, Mr. Rooney advises student-athletes almost exclusively (in addition to his other responsibilities in First Year, he works with about 110 students each year; this year student-athletes comprise about 105 of that number). First Year of Studies has tried to implement a “team approach” with Academic Services for Student-Athletes. In future years, the Board should try to observe what effect, if any, these initiatives have on the student-athlete survey results.

10. New Business: Prof. Bender, noting that Mr. Anthony Solomon, an assistant coach in the basketball program, would soon leave Notre Dame to assume the head coaching position at St. Bonaventure University, moved a resolution thanking Mr. Solomon for his contributions to Notre Dame and wishing him every success in his new challenge. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Farewell and thanks: At this, the last Board meeting of the academic year, the chair, on behalf of the Board, said farewell and gave thanks to those members ending their service on the Board. Prof. William Berry retires from the University this summer. Prof. Katherine Spiess also leaves the Board, having served one year as an alternate to Prof. Lana Mosley. (Prof. Mosley will return to the Board this fall following her academic leave). Finally, Ms. Emily Bienko, the student member of the Board, will graduate from the Law School this month and will soon join a prestigious Atlanta law firm.

The chair thanked the Board for its productive year, its hard work, and its solid commitment to the academic and athletics missions of the University. Whatever the Board’s rate of “getting it right,” the chair emphasized that to his knowledge no other university invests so much talent and effort toward that goal. He wished all members of the Board a good and refreshing summer.

12. Adjournment: The chair adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.