

**Faculty Board on Athletics
Meeting of May 10, 2018
10:30 am-12:00 pm, 500 Main Building**

Members present: Patricia Bellia (Chair), Corey Angst, James Brockmole, Ann Firth, Erin Hoffmann Harding, Patrick Holmes, F. Clark Power, Michael Stanistic, Kevin Vaughan, Cameasha Turner

Members excused: Jaimie Bleck, Daniel Kelly, Mary Ann McDowell, Susan Ohmer, Jack Swarbrick

Athletic Liaisons: Missy Conboy, Mike Harrity

Guests: Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., University President; Claire Leatherwood Slebonick (recorder); Heidi Uebelhor, Assistant Athletics Director; Brent Moberg, Director of Compliance

1. Opening Prayer

Professor Patricia Bellia called the meeting to order at 10:33 am and invited Father John Jenkins to give the opening prayer.

2. Commission on College Basketball

Professor Bellia stated that she re-ordered the agenda so that Father Jenkins could comment on the work of the Commission on College Basketball at the start of the meeting.

Father Jenkins described the work of the Commission on College Basketball (Commission), offering various insights and providing additional context to the Commission's published report. Father Jenkins, a member of the Commission, listed the members of the impressive group and lauded Dr. Condoleeza Rice's leadership of the Commission as its chair. Father Jenkins described the problems at the heart of the Commission's focus as complex and believes the concrete recommendations in the Commission's *Report and Recommendations to Address the Issues facing College Basketball (Report)* are positive steps. He shared the Commission's emphasis on the preservation of the collegiate model, describing it as young people pursuing a college degree while using their athletic experience to learn and grow.

Father Jenkins discussed the four primary recommendations published in the Commission's *Report*: (1) create realistic pathways for student-athlete success; (2) establish professional neutral investigation and adjudication of serious infractions and hold institutions and individuals accountable; (3) mitigate non-scholastic basketball's harmful influence on college basketball; and (4) add a significant cadre of public members to the NCAA's Board of Governors.

Reporting on the Commission's recommendations to create realistic pathways for student-athlete success, Father Jenkins described the Commission's proposal to separate the collegiate and professional tracks by ending the "one-and-done" option, noting, however, that

doing so depends on changing the National Basketball Association's (NBA's) rule that players must be nineteen before entering the NBA draft. Father Jenkins remarked that it is critical for the NBA Players' Association (NBPA) to be involved in discussions that seek to modify that rule. Father Jenkins commented on the potential enhancement of the NBA's G-league in order to make it a more viable alternative to the "one-and-done" path through college. He also discussed other elements surrounding this issue, such as allowing student-athletes to explore professional options while maintaining college eligibility should they not sign a contract and creating earlier opportunities for student-athletes to receive assessments of their professional prospects with the assistance of certified agents. Father Jenkins spoke about the Commission's emphasis on degree completion, highlighting the collective responsibility of the NCAA and its members to help lower-resourced institutions enable former student-athletes to complete their degree.

Describing the Commission's next set of recommendations, which proposes a professional neutral investigation and adjudication model, Father Jenkins highlighted several of the problems with the current model, including the conflict of interest that can exist due to member institutions employing a majority of the panel members on the Committee on Infractions and Infraction Appeals Committee.

Prior to discussing the third category of recommendations, which focuses on mitigating the negative influence of non-scholastic basketball, Father Jenkins talked about many of the challenges inherent to this model and the shift over time in how elite level prospects are recruited. Father Jenkins noted the thorny nature of this problem as the NCAA has limited control of this area and offered the Commission's recommendations on steps the NCAA should take to influence this issue.

Finally, Father Jenkins commented on the last of the Commission's recommendations, which is to appoint more public members on the NCAA's Board of Governors. He discussed the determinations that drove this recommendation.

Father Jenkins offered to answer any questions from the Board. In response to a question from Professor F. Clark Power focusing on the inequality of access to teams, leagues, and events that enable prospects to be recruited, Father Jenkins noted the complexities of income inequality and described the Commission's attempts to address the recruitment of elite level talent, particularly with the incredible pressure and temptations toward corruption that can exist when a young person has skills that could generate millions of dollars of income. Replying to a question from Mr. Patrick Holmes on the possibility of a lifetime ban for a coach found to have committed an egregious violation, Father Jenkins said part of the Commission's goal was to make the institution take some responsibility for hiring this person. In response to a question from Professor Corey Angst, Father Jenkins stated that the door remains open for the Commission to take further steps if the apparel companies do not respond appropriately to the Commission's recommendations. Replying to a question from Professor Bellia regarding how a case will qualify for the alternative investigation and adjudication process, Father Jenkins summarized the Commission's determination in this area and said that any case in which an institution appeals may be considered by the independent adjudicators for the alternative resolution process. In response to a question from Mr. Brent Moberg on how to fund the degree completion process at lower-resourced institutions, Father Jenkins noted that the College

Football Playoff is outside of the NCAA so funding sources would likely have to be found elsewhere.

Seeing no other questions from the Board, Professor Bellia thanked Father Jenkins for his report. Professor Bellia continued to defer discussion of the Chair's Announcements and Minutes until later in the meeting.

3. Volleyball—Orientation Scheduling Request

Professor Bellia introduced this topic by describing the Board's policy regarding competition during Welcome Weekend and the establishment of a tradition of windows in which men's and women's soccer are allowed to compete at home. Due to a change in the NCAA rules that enables women's volleyball to begin its competition schedule earlier, this request from women's volleyball to compete during Welcome Weekend is one of first impression. Professor Bellia invited Mr. Mike Johnson, Associate Head Coach of Women's Volleyball, to talk to the Board about the team's needs.

Mr. Johnson thanked the Board for its time and began by emphasizing the women's volleyball program's commitment to a fully integrated student experience and his support for student-athlete's participation in Welcome Weekend. He described the limited amount of time the team has to prepare prior to its first contest, the new rule this year that allows the team to play an exhibition match prior to the first contest, and the critical role the exhibition will play in the team's preparation, particularly as the program graduated four of last season's eight starters. Mr. Johnson pointed out that the schedule being considered by the Board for approval has two fewer play dates than the team has had in years past.

Mr. Johnson provided several reasons as to why the program is requesting to play during Welcome Weekend, including: the importance of timing the exhibition match in the midst of practices prior to the first match, the difficulty of finding opponents who will play outside of the weekend, and the limited availability of facilities in which to host the match.

A broad discussion followed Mr. Johnson's presentation with several questions directed to Mr. Johnson. Ms. Erin Hoffmann Harding stated that playing during the Sunday window is much less intrusive from a student experience stand point than is playing on Friday, as Friday's Welcome Weekend program includes first year advising. In response to a question from Ms. Ann Firth on the appropriate criteria to evaluate this request, Professor Bellia detailed the Board's practice of allowing a team to play during Welcome Weekend if there is a compelling reason for the team to compete and the request can be accommodated in such a way that minimizes the impact on students' Welcome Weekend programming participation.

In response to a question from Ms. Hoffmann Harding, Ms. Missy Conboy explained the NCAA's approach to melding exhibitions and contests into one comprehensive competition schedule. Ms. Conboy stated that should this exhibition not be approved, the program would likely have to add games later in the season as the total number of wins is important to qualifying for the NCAA Championship tournament. She commented that adding games later in the season would likely increase the team's class miss numbers. Replying to Ms. Hoffmann Harding's

question about whether or not the team could play the exhibition before Welcome Weekend, Mr. Johnson and Ms. Conboy responded that finding an opponent to play that early in the season is nearly impossible. In response to questions from Mr. Mike Harrity and Professors Bellia and Brockmole regarding the possibilities of playing on other days, Mr. Johnson replied that it is possible but described how playing the exhibition on an atypical day for competition would affect the program's schedule. In response to questions from Professor Angst, Professor Bellia described the history of requests from women's soccer, and Ms. Conboy emphasized that missing critical orientation events is not something that the Department of Athletics supports. Professor Bellia asked whether or not there would be an annual concern about facility availability. Ms. Conboy answered in the affirmative, stating that availability would probably remain a concern until a volleyball practice facility is built. Mr. Johnson replied to a question from Ms. Firth by confirming that the program had no plans to add games later in the year should this exhibition be approved. Replying to a question from Professor Brockmole, Mr. Johnson said that the program will have four freshman during the Fall 2018 season.

With no additional questions for Mr. Johnson, Professor Bellia thanked him for his presentation and excused him. Mr. Johnson thanked the Board.

Professor Brockmole asked Ms. Hoffmann Harding to go through the Welcome Weekend schedule and identify to the Board what she saw as the most appropriate windows for playing this match. Ms. Hoffmann Harding did so, highlighting Sunday afternoon as a possible window with the least interference with Welcome Weekend activities. Based on Ms. Hoffmann Harding's description, Professor Bellia proposed that the Board delegate to her the authority to approve the match in question: (1) after an opponent has been identified; and (2) in consultation with Ms. Hoffmann Harding and First Year Studies to place the match within the most appropriate window. Professor Stanisic moved that the Board vote on the proposal as described and Professor Angst seconded it. All present and voting members of the Board voted in favor of the proposal.

4. Minutes of Meeting of April 13, 2018

Professor Bellia introduced the minutes of the meeting of April 13, 2018. After Mr. Harrity offered one correction, Ms. Hoffmann Harding moved for approval of the minutes, which Professor Angst seconded. All present and voting members of the Board voted to approve the minutes with the noted correction.

5. Summer Delegation of Authority to Handle Routine Matters

Professor Bellia described the Board's usual practice of granting the Chair of the Board a delegation of authority to make decisions on the Board's behalf over the summer months on routine matters. She further explained that in instances that are not routine, the Chair seeks the Board's resolution of the matter. The Chair reports to the Board on the disposition of all routine matters during the first meeting in the following academic year. Ms. Hoffmann Harding moved to grant Professor Bellia the delegation of authority to handle routine matters over the summer. Professor Angst seconded the motion and all present and voting members voted to grant this delegation of authority.

6. Chair's Announcements

Schedules. Professor Bellia announced she approved the men's and women's golf schedules. She explained that while they go over the allowable Monday, Wednesday, Friday class miss numbers, the schedules and consequent class misses are in line with previous requests to the Board.

Waivers of the On-Campus Housing Policy. Professor Bellia stated she approved several waivers of the on-campus housing policy prior to the Board's last meeting. She reported that four were for medical reasons and were approved in consultation with Mr. Scott Howland, Program Coordinator for the Sara Bea Center for Students with Disabilities. Four other requests were from early enrollees, on which she consulted the chairs of the Board's subcommittees; those consulted agreed they should be approved, so she did so. Finally, Professor Bellia announced that while she approved a request from a student-athlete who is a medical non-counter, this student-athlete is technically not subject to the Board's requirements concerning on-campus housing.

7. Academic Reports

Professor Bellia invited Mr. Holmes to present the *2017-18 Profile of Student-Athletes* report to the Board. Mr. Holmes thanked Professor Bellia and directed the Board to the summary page included with the report. Mr. Holmes highlighted the following points: (1) approximately eight percent of Notre Dame's student body are student-athletes; (2) student-athletes who receive an athletics grant-in-aid increased to 445 recipients, with female student-athletes making up forty-five percent of this group; (3) women make up forty-eight percent of the undergraduate student body and forty-two percent of the student-athlete population. Mr. Holmes also presented an ethnic breakdown of the student-athlete population. He directed the Board's attention to a chart comparing average test scores at admission and average cumulative GPAs at Notre Dame, and provided a breakdown of these scores by gender and ethnicity. He noted a strong correlation between the average test scores and average cumulative GPAs.

Mr. Holmes emphasized how critical it is for student-athletes to engage with the available resources to maximize their academic experience while enrolled at Notre Dame.

Mr. Holmes shared the average GPA of student-athletes and compared it with the average GPA of all undergraduate students. He referenced student-athlete enrollment trends among Notre Dame's colleges and majors. He noted the impact of the recent Mendoza College of Business (Mendoza) enrollment cap, as both the number of all undergraduate students and the number of student-athletes enrolled in Mendoza has decreased in each of the last two academic years.

Professor Angst commented that his colleagues in Mendoza have observed that an increased percentage of students enrolled in Mendoza's majors are student-athletes. Mr. Holmes noted that, in absolute terms, the number of student-athletes enrolled in Mendoza has decreased

slightly over the last few years. So too has the percentage of the student-athlete population enrolled in Mendoza. At the same time, the overall number of students enrolled in Mendoza has declined more significantly, so that student-athletes form a higher percentage of the student body within Mendoza. Professor Angst stated that colleagues in Mendoza have remarked on the higher proportion of student-athletes in their courses. Professor Bellia recalled discussions held surrounding the implementation of Mendoza's enrollment policy, including the effort to maintain a relatively stable number of student-athletes. She observed that Don Bishop, Dean of Enrollment Management, and Roger Huang, Dean of Mendoza, were involved in the setting of this policy. The Board could revisit this issue with Mr. Bishop and the Dean of Mendoza if faculty members continue to have concerns. Professor Bellia stated that it would be helpful for the Board to know if this issue gains momentum, as it is part of a larger conversation the Board is having concerning course clustering.

Mr. Holmes returned to discussing various statistics within the report. He pointed out that the new SAT score will begin to be incorporated in these reports as soon as next year's report, as students who took the new test begin to matriculate. He explained that there is an effort underway to convert the old scores to new scores. He reminded the Board that a student-athlete's test score is of particular relevance in determining his or her risk profile. Mr. Holmes concluded by pointing out the cumulative GPAs of all student-athletes for spring and fall of 2017 are among the highest cumulative GPAs this population has ever achieved.

Seeing no additional questions for Mr. Holmes, Professor Bellia thanked him for his report.

8. Adjournment

Prior to adjourning, Professor Bellia announced that this is Professor Michael Stanisic's last meeting after six years of service on the Board. Professor Bellia thanked Professor Stanisic for his time and service, particularly as the Chair of the Student Welfare Subcommittee. Professor Stanisic remarked on the good work of the Student Welfare Subcommittee and the Board and that participating has been a privilege. He thanked Professor Bellia and the Board.

Professor Bellia concluded the meeting by announcing that Professor Susan Ohmer will be teaching in London during the upcoming fall semester and that Professor Brockmole will be serving as her temporary replacement.

Professor Bellia adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm.