Faculty Board on Athletics
Meeting of October 16, 2019
12:45-2:15 p.m.—Indoor Athletic Complex

Members Present: Patricia Bellia (Chair), Corey Angst, Jaimie Bleck, Ann Firth, Lauren Hanna, Erin Hoffmann Harding, Patrick Holmes, Sean Kelsey, Randy Kozel, Susan Ohmer, Richard Pierce, F. Clark Power, Aaron Striegel, Jack Swarbrick, Kevin Vaughan

Athletics Liaisons: Missy Conboy, Mike Harrity, Jody Sadler, Angie Torain

Guests: Christy Pratt, Director of Admissions; Don Bishop, Associate Vice President, Undergraduate Enrollment; Erin Abbey, Associate Director of Compliance, Athletics; Matt Balis, Director of Football Performance; Mike Szemborski, Director of Strength and Conditioning, Olympic Sports; Heidi Uebelhor, Associate Athletics Director; Claire Leatherwood Slebonick, Assistant Athletics Director and Recorder

1. Opening Prayer

Professor Patricia Bellia called the meeting to order at 12:51 p.m. and invited Professor Randy Kozel to offer the opening prayer.

2. Minutes of Meeting of September 27, 2019

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the Minutes of the September 27, 2019, meeting as submitted.

3. Chair's Announcements

Professor Bellia announced that she approved schedules for men's and women's fencing, men's and women's indoor track and field, and baseball (spring). Professor Bellia noted that baseball exceeded the allowable number of Monday/Wednesday/Friday class misses. The additional misses are attributable to a challenging ACC schedule and the team's need to play the first several weeks on the road due to weather. The team is under the allowable number of Tuesday/Thursday class misses, and overall the schedule has fewer class misses than is typical. She reminded committee members that baseball has no post-season misses during the academic year, because all post-season play takes place after exams.

4. Student-Athlete Admissions

Professor Bellia introduced Don Bishop, Associate Vice President of Undergraduate Enrollment, and Christy Pratt, Director of Admissions, and invited Board members to introduce themselves. Mr. Bishop offered remarks on the University's admissions philosophy and the increasing strength of the Notre Dame undergraduate academic profile. Ms. Pratt described the processes surrounding consideration of prospective student-athletes for admission and identified those on her staff responsible for executing these processes.

In response to a question from Professor Bellia regarding early recruiting, Mr. Bishop explained that connecting with prospective student-athletes earlier in the process carries some benefit, as it allows the Admissions Office staff to provide earlier guidance. Replying to a question from Professor Corey Angst, Mr. Bishop commented on how the media sometimes discusses decisions not to continue the recruitment of a prospective student-athlete. Further discussion ensued regarding social media's role in recruiting. Ms. Pratt responded to a question from Professor Striegel about early enrollment by sharing the reasons underlying why students enroll in January. Mr. Bishop and Mr. Holmes supplied additional context and Professor Bellia shared the benefit of being able to enroll before the student's competition season begins. In reply to a question from Professor Angst, Ms. Pratt and Mr. Bishop explained how Admissions uses the information provided by the coaching staff. Responding to a question from Professor Bellia, Mr. Bishop spoke on the interview component offered to some prospective student-athletes and on how the Admissions Office staff try to identify who will thrive at Notre Dame.

5. Compliance Annual Report

Professor Bellia introduced two Compliance staff members, Erin Abbey, Associate Director, and Heidi Uebelhor, Associate Athletics Director, who presented the Compliance Annual Report for the 2018-19 year to the Board.

Ms. Abbey shared basic demographic information about Notre Dame student-athletes, explaining how these numbers are calculated. She also spoke about the novice walk-on process for women's rowing and its impact on these figures. Ms. Uebelhor added that the student-athletes self-identify much of this demographic information within the Banner system.

Ms. Abbey commented on the number of Pell Grant recipients and the overall dollar figure provided via Pell Grants to Notre Dame student-athletes. She described what the Student Athlete Fund (SAF) is, the process by which the NCAA disburses the SAF monies, and how Notre Dame distributes those funds to student-athletes. Ms. Abbey shared numbers on Notre Dame National Letter of Intent (NLI) signees, Grant-in-Aid (GIA) recipients, and squad size. She provided context around these figures, including a year-over-year comparison and the difference between head count and equivalency sports in terms of financial aid awards. Ms. Abbey explained the processes for termination and reduction of GIA, including how multi-year GIAs work in this space, and offered context around these figures.

Ms. Abbey discussed Notre Dame's transfer numbers, reminding the Board of the recent legislative changes in this area, and shared relevant context. In response to a question from Professor Angst, Professor Bellia commented that Notre Dame's transfer numbers are low compared to other universities. Ms. Uebelhor noted that Notre Dame's transfer numbers were fairly constant compared to years past, indicating that the new transfer portal had virtually no effect here.

Ms. Uebelhor remarked on NCAA recruiting rule changes and explained how those changes affected the number of visits taken to Notre Dame, when prospective student-athletes took those visits, and how those changes affected different sports.

Ms. Uebelhor described what an NCAA waiver is, when an institution is likely to apply for one, and the application process. She offered year-over-year trends in both the type and number of waivers the Compliance office applied for on behalf of Notre Dame Athletics and gave several examples of circumstances that necessitated a waiver. Ms. Uebelhor explained what an NCAA violation is, how the NCAA "levels" violations, and the number of violations a Compliance office for a department similar in size to Notre Dame should expect to see. She shared how violations are discovered, commenting on self-reports and monitoring efforts, and offered several examples of the past year's violations.

6. Demonstration of Sports Science Technology

Professor Bellia invited Mr. Mike Harrity, Senior Associate Athletic Director, to frame the demonstration of how Notre Dame utilizes sport science to gain insights that support the overall health and wellness of each student-athlete by informing decision-making of coaches and sports performance staff members. She prefaced Mr. Harrity's introduction by noting that Professor Susan Ohmer had requested more information on Notre Dame's sport science efforts, after reading an interview in which Mr. Swarbrick had discussed student-athletes' increased interest in and focus on this area.

Mr. Harrity briefly described what the Board would see and have an opportunity to participate in, shared details about the numerous faculty collaborations supporting Notre Dame's sports science projects, and highlighted some benefits of the wearable technology.

The Board relocated to the Guglielmino weight room for the demonstration and received presentations on the DARI 3D motion-capture movement screening system, force plate, and Catapult GPS technologies by members of the Olympic and Football Strength and Conditioning staffs.

7. Adjournment

Professor Bellia adjourned the meeting shortly after 2:15 p.m.