



AGENDA

- I. INTRODUCTION (Dr. Wellford)
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Dr. Wellford)
- III. CHAIR'S REPORT (Dr. Wellford)
  - A. Student Athlete Opportunity Fund
  - B. XF Proposal
  - C. Big Ten resolution on intercollegiate athletics
  - D. Miscellaneous
- IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Dr. Yow)
- V. REPORT ON STUDENT ATHLETE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT  
(Rob Koonce)
- VI. ATHLETIC COUNCIL POLICY MANUAL
- VII. OTHER BUSINESS

# Athletic Council

## December 19, 2002

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### **I. INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Wellford welcomed Council members to the December meeting. The Council approved the October minutes.

### **II. CHAIR'S REPORT**

#### **A. Student Athlete Opportunity Fund**

Dr. Wellford distributed a report from the Division I Conference Commissioners regarding the Student Athlete Opportunity Fund (SAOF). There has been considerable interest in retaining maximum flexibility for conferences to determine uses for the SAOF that provide direct benefits to student athletes that either arise in conjunction with student athletes' participation in intercollegiate athletics or that provide benefits that recognize academic achievement.

What is labeled as "Option L" appears to have achieved consensus and provides as follows:

- (1) only the SAOF would be distributed to student athletes (distribution would not change the allocation of the special assistance fund or academic enhancement fund)
- (2) would provide approximately \$110,000 per ACC institution
- (3) must be distributed to provide a direct benefit to student-athletes, such as: summer school aid; academic achievement awards; graduation award; insurance premiums; post graduate scholarships; fees for internship programs; additional trips home; educational supplies; emergency and medical expenses for spouse and dependents; etc.

"Option L" will be voted on by the NCAA in April of 2003. Presidents of the equity conferences will voice their opinion in January or February.

#### **B. XF Proposal**

Dr. Wellford informed the Council that the Campus Senate's Student Conduct Committee recently voted 8-1 against a proposal to amend the Code of Academic Integrity to give added discretion over "XF" sanctions to the Honor Council's student-faculty board. The proposal attempted to correct an unintended consequence of the sanction, whereby students on certain types of scholarships who receive an "XF" and are prohibited from representing the University in extracurricular activities are disproportionately affected by the potential loss of their scholarship. Dr. Wellford noted that while this issue is often



viewed only from the perspective of student athletes, it also affects teaching assistants, resident assistants and other scholarship students.

Athletic Council members were split on whether the failed amendment would have been an improvement over current policy. Some felt that the amendment would have provided the Honor Council with the flexibility to determine the severity of an “XF” sanction on a case-by-case basis. Others found that it diluted the penalty for students who are found to have violated the Code of Academic Integrity.

### **C. Big Ten resolution on intercollegiate athletics**

Dr. Wellford distributed an email from the President of Indiana University’s Faculty Council regarding a Big Ten resolution on intercollegiate athletics. The email sought support for the following three principles:

- (1) College athletes are students first, and their college experience must be as full participants in the student community. Academic support structures for athletes must be integrated in university-wide programs, so that academic expectations and services are as robust for athletes as for others students.
- (2) Inappropriate aspects of commercialization must be reduced. Examples of actions that should be taken include limiting the times and days when games are played, the number of breaks in games for commercials, the type and prevalence of advertising in stadiums and arenas, and the logos worn by players and coaches. The goals of intercollegiate athletics and commercial sports are different. Blurring that distinction puts the true success of intercollegiate athletics at risk.
- (3) The “arms race” of intercollegiate athletics must be scaled back. While competitive sports must aim at winning, the success of an athletics program is measured by the value it adds to the college athletes and campuses, not by championships. Competitiveness within conferences and divisions should not involve allowing standard characteristics of professional sports to distort the more comprehensive aims of college sports. Athletics should not be subsidized by the academic side of the institution, and athletics departments should operate under the same principles of budget accountability that characterize other units.

Dr. Wellford and Dr. Yow noted that while the principles are laudable, the problem is in the details. They each supported the ideals embraced in such statements, but noted that lack of solutions to any of the issues identified by the Big Ten. Dr. Wellford also stated that the Athletic Council functions to work with these issues year-to-year at Maryland.

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Dr. Wellford stated that he and Dr. Yow are scheduled to meet with the University Senate Executive Committee and would discuss this topic. He also noted that the ACC athletic directors and faculty athletic representatives are moving forward on a number of these topics, but individually, rather than as a comprehensive package.

### **III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **A. Competitive Update**

Dr. Yow distributed a recap of competitive achievements of varsity teams during the Fall 2002 semester. Maryland is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> nationally in the Director's Cup standings as of December 19, 2002.

The football team finished with a 10-3 record and a second-place tie in the ACC. Maryland notched back-to-back 10-win seasons for the first time in school history and will play in the Peach Bowl on December 31<sup>st</sup> at 7 PM in Atlanta, Georgia. Linebacker E.J. Henderson won the Bednarik award (nation's top defensive player) and Butkus awards (nation's top linebacker).

Men's soccer finished 20-5, won the ACC Championship and advanced to the semifinals of the College Cup, losing 2-1 to UCLA. Women's soccer posted a 13-8-1 overall record and advanced to the second round of the College Cup -- their seventh NCAA appearance in the last eight years.

#### **B. Commission on Opportunity in Athletics**

Dr. Yow reported that the Commission has completed its series of four town hall meetings and that its final report to the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) is due by January 31, 2003. She explained that the Commission has no authority to alter Title IX law. The Commission is specifically reviewing the series of judicial interpretations and agency regulations that followed the enactment of Title IX in 1972. Although OCR is under no obligation to adopt any of the Commission's findings, Dr. Yow noted that she expects some change to occur.

#### **C. Peach Bowl**

Dr. Yow reported that the department had sold approximately 7,000 Peach Bowl tickets as of December 11 and approximately 12,000 as of December 18. Many ICA staff are focused on sales initiatives and travel logistics as the game nears.

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### IV. REPORT ON STUDENT ATHLETE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Wellford distributed a handout regarding the University Senate. He reported that the Senate Campus Affairs Committee has discussed ACC Athletics and its relationship to the educational missions of ACC universities, as well as the issues raised by the Knight Commission report. The Committee recommended to the Senate that:

- (1) Commend the President, Athletic Department, and Athletic Council for being involved in addressing issues of athletics/education.
- (2) Invite the Athletic Council Chair to report the status of these efforts to the Senate Executive Committee each semester, and report to the Senate annually.
- (3) Recommend that the President strongly support nation- and conference-wide actions to improve the educational atmosphere and reduce the excess costs and commercialization related to athletics.
- (4) Recommend that the Athletic Department, working with the Athletic Council, develop a long-term plan addressing how it will maximize education for the University of Maryland athletes. A draft of this plan should be submitted to the Senate Executive Committee for reactions prior to its submission to the President.

Dr. Wellford noted that he and Dr. Yow would meet with the Senate Executive Committee to discuss this recommendation. Dr. Yow has met with both the Senate and the Senate Executive Committee over the past two years to discuss the state of the department. Dr. Wellford noted that the Athletic Council currently provides the type of oversight referenced in the Committee's recommendations.

Rob Koonce distributed the 2002 Annual Report on Student-Athlete Achievement and reviewed the following areas with the Council:

- (1) Introduction to ASCDU: ASCDU mission statement, goals, and objectives; ASCDU programs and services; overview of UM and NCAA athletic eligibility standards; and student-athlete honors and awards.
- (2) Athletes in Special Programs: College Park Scholars, Gemstones and Honors.
- (3) Average Semester Credits Earned and GPA
- (4) Average Semester Credits Earned and GPA: scholarship vs. non-scholarship student-athletes.
- (5) Student-Athletes on Dean's List
- (6) Recruited Student-Athletes Average SAT and GPA
- (7) Average Semester Credits Earned and GPA: broken down by race.
- (8) Average Semester Credits Earned: broken down by major.

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### **V. ATHLETIC COUNCIL POLICY MANUAL**

Michael Lipitz distributed a draft of the Athletic Council Policy Manual. Council members are asked to review the document and submit comments to Michael prior to the Council's next meeting in February.

### **VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michael Lipitz*

Assistant Athletic Director for Administration