

AGENDA

- I. INTRODUCTIONS & APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Dr. Wellford)
- II. CHAIR REPORT (Dr. Wellford)
- III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Dr. Yow)
- IV. COIA REFERRAL FROM UNIVERSITY SENATE (Dr. Wellford)
- V. SGA PROPOSAL (Mr. Kreiger)
- VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - A. ACADEMIC COMMITTEE (Dr. Dorfmann)
 - B. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Ms. Potter)
- VII. OTHER BUSINESS

I. INTRODUCTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Wellford introduced Debbie Potter, Terrapin Club President, and Dr. Joel Cohen, Professor of Mathematics and Chair of the University Senate.

The minutes from the November 2003 meeting were approved.

II. CHAIR REPORT

A. Initial & Continuing Eligibility

Dr. Wellford distributed copies of Maryland's initial and continuing eligibility policies and requested that Council members review the material to understand how the Registrar's Office and Faculty Athletics Representative determine student-athletes' eligibility for NCAA competition. The Council will revisit this material in February to ensure that Council members fully understand the process.

B. SAOF

Dr. Wellford distributed copies of the revised policy on the use of the Student Athlete Opportunity Fund (SAOF). This draft includes President Mote's comments, including a list of principles that will govern the use of the funds and a specific reference to the data tracking and policy review that will be conducted by the ACC and NCAA. This policy will be in place for the remainder of the 2003-04 academic year.

The Council voted unanimously to adopt the SAOF policy.

III. DIRECTOR REPORT

A. NCSU Postgame Activity

Dr. Yow reported that no student-athletes or staff was injured in the postgame activity following Maryland's recent football victory at NC State. She noted that Coach Friedgen and the team were unaware that the NCSU band planned to make an early field entrance during Maryland's pregame warm-up, which led to on-field jostling. She also explained that NCSU players apparently took offense to Maryland players running toward Maryland fans to sing the fight song following the game, as is their normal practice, because they did not understand what was happening.

Maryland coaches immediately sent players to the locker room when a few players participated in verbal exchanges with NCSU players and NCSU fans began throwing bottles and debris from the stands.

Coach Friedgen read his players a few letters the department received from NCSU fans and discussed with them his expectations for appropriate behavior. Dr. Yow also sent a letter to the NCSU Athletics Director to apologize for Maryland's part in the postgame activity and request consideration for moving the visiting team fans closer to the visiting team locker room.

B. Disciplinary Issues Review

Dr. Yow distributed copies of the department's formalized policy for managing student-athlete disciplinary issues. It is a written policy for current department practices.

C. Sports Medicine Unit

Dr. Yow reported that the Sports Medicine Unit will be restructured so that the head of sports medicine and the head football trainer are two separate positions. The new Director of Medical Services will oversee all sports medicine operations and have a greater administrative role, including a focus on NCAA-mandated monitoring of abuse of illegal substances. A separate, full-time athletic trainer will serve as the football team's head athletic trainer.

D. Thank You to Academic Deans

Dr. Yow thanked the academic deans who participated in the recognition of the 311 dean's list student-athletes at halftime of the Duke football game.

E. Venue Safety

Dr. Yow reported that the department has hired UMCP police aides to patrol its athletic venues overnight. The security cameras in the Comcast Center will also now be monitored on a real-time basis by the UMCP Policy operations center.

F. Overseas Travel

Dr. Yow reported that the men's basketball team has planned a 10-day trip to Italy during the summer of 2004. She requested the Council's approval for the department to financially support a portion of the cost of this terrific educational opportunity for student-athletes. The majority of the trip will be supported via private funding.

The Council voted unanimously to approve the department's support of the trip.

IV. COIA REFERRAL FROM UNIVERSITY SENATE

Dr. Joel Cohen discussed the COIA with the Council. He noted that the coalition began at Indiana University in the Big Ten and has grown to two representatives from each BCS conference.

The steering committee developed the framework document and met with NCAA President Miles Brand, the American Association of University Presidents and the National Governing Boards. Dr. Cohen explained that the majority of the recommended reforms are already in place at Maryland. He commended Dr. Yow on the openness between the athletics department and university senate and noted that the strong working relationship is not present on all campuses.

The Athletic Council Executive Committee will review the COIA recommendations and to the Council in February. The Executive Committee will consider two options: (1) whether to recommend that the University Senate join the COIA as a member; or (2) whether to recommend that the University Senate join the COIA as a member and adopt the recommendations of the COIA framework document.

V. SGA PROPOSAL

David Kreiger presented an SGA proposal regarding the five rows of student seats immediately behind the visiting team bench in the Comcast Center. The proposal requested that the Council support the reallocation of these seats from student groups to the general student body and utilize a different means by which to track the students who sit in those seats.

Dr. Wellford explained that the Council is charged with the ongoing implementation of the recommendations of the President's Sportsmanship

Committee, which includes the seats behind the visiting team bench. Some Council members expressed support for looking at other options for tracking the students who sit in these seats, while other Council members did not believe that an effective policy should be changed.

The Athletic Council Executive Committee will review the proposal and report to the Council in February.

VI. ACADEMIC COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Academic Committee

Dr. Dorfman reported on two issues which require the Council's action:

- (1) Should students in the Academic Achievement Program (AAP) be allowed to participate as walk-ons during the second semester of their first year of studies? The committee recommended that the Council retain its current policy of not allowing walk-on participation by AAP students during their first year.

The Council voted unanimously to retain the current policy.

- (2) Should all contacts of coaches with faculty and other instructional personnel about the academic performance of student-athletes be done through their assigned ASCDU counselor or FAR? The committee recommended that coaches be required to follow this procedure to avoid the appearance of impropriety in their relationships with faculty and staff.

The Council voted unanimously to adopt this policy.

B. External Affairs Committee

Debbie Potter and Joe Hull presented the recommendation for the department's formal policy on honoring student-athlete jerseys. The policy defines the criteria that automatically qualify a student-athlete to have his or her jersey honored and the nomination process for student-athletes who do not meet the automatic criteria. A student-athlete must have either graduate or have left the University in good academic standing in order to have his or her jersey honored.

The Council voted unanimously to adopt this policy.



VII. OTHER BUSINESS

None. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Lipitz
Associate Athletics Director for Administration