



AGENDA

- I. INTRODUCTIONS & APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Dr. Wellford)
- II. CHAIR REPORT (Dr. Wellford)
- III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Dr. Yow)
- IV. BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT
- V. NCAA ACADEMIC INCENTIVES/DISINCENTIVES (Dr. Wellford)
- VI. PROTECTING ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (Dr. Wellford)
- VII. BCS OPTIONS (Dr. Wellford)
- VIII. ESPN LETTER (Susan Bayly)
- IX. OTHER BUSINESS



I. INTRODUCTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Council approved minutes from its December and February meetings.

II. CHEERLEADING REQUEST FOR VARSITY SPORT STATUS

Dr. Wellford introduced cheerleading coaches Tina Simijoski and Tracy Ricker, who requested that Council members consider elevating competitive cheerleading to varsity status. The coaches have previously approached the athletic department three times regarding this request.

The coaches discussed all areas of the program, including the try-out process, strength and conditioning, drug-testing, academic support, competitive schedule and operational and scholarship support. They noted that the program has been a part of Maryland Athletics since the 1930s and won the women's division national championship in 1999.

Dr. Yow explained that her staff would take the request under consideration and prepare a proposal regarding the possible addition of varsity sports for the Council's May meeting.

III. CHAIR REPORT

Dr. Wellford noted that Council members Tony Whitehead and Jackson Bryer would be completing their service at the end of the semester. He requested that recommendations for new members be submitted to him within the week. Council members recommended Chuck Caramello, Bill Higgins, Lee Vander Velden, and Robin Sawyer.

A. Pay for Play

Dr. Wellford informed the Council that a Nebraska senator recently introduced a "pay for play" bill for student-athletes in the state. He also distributed a point/counter-point on the subject that was featured in the NCAA News.

B. Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA)

The COIA is a group of faculty senate leaders advocating for reform in intercollegiate athletics. Dr. Wellford noted that Joel Cohen, Chair of the University Senate for 2003-04, will be Maryland's representative to the COIA. He also distributed a draft of the COIA's charter.



C. Drug Testing

Dr. Wellford personally observed a recent session of drug testing and was concerned about the lack of student-athlete privacy. He noted that test results were shared in the presence of other student-athletes.

Dr. Wellford distributed a survey of the drug testing policies of each ACC institution. Under Maryland's current drug testing policy, coaches are not notified of a first positive test. The Council discussed the positives and negatives of informing coaches of a first positive. The issue was referred to the Student-Athlete Welfare Committee for further discussion and a report at the May meeting.

D. Academic Review System

Dr. Wellford reported that three teams were reviewed: football, women's basketball and men's soccer. He noted that the graduation rates for football for the 1998 and 1999 cohorts were very encouraging.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Football Graduation Rates

Dr. Yow noted that eleven football players who will have already earned their undergraduate degrees will participate in the 2003 season. Coach Friedgen is doing an outstanding job of encouraging his student-athletes to make significant progress towards their degrees.

B. May Athletic Council Meeting

Shawn Flynn, Kathy Worthington and Michael Lipitz will work on a presentation for the potential addition of varsity sports for the Council's May meeting.

C. Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA)

Dr. Yow commented that while she supports the reform efforts of the COIA, the group's biggest challenge will be to not duplicate the efforts of existing organizations that are already actively engaged in such pursuits (e.g. Athletic Council, University Senate, ACC, NCAA, SAAC, etc., and the corresponding confusion).



D. Pay for Play

Dr. Yow explained that she is not in favor of a pay for play model. She noted that discussion always revolves around revenue sports (football and men's basketball), but that the gender equity issues involved would mean substantial costs for athletics programs as women's teams would also receive payment.

E. ICA Budget

Dr. Yow reported that ICA will balance its operating budget for the 9th consecutive year. The department has continued to balance while also contributing significant dollars to the campus as part of the State budget recall – approximately \$500,000 in FY02; \$1.8 million in FY03; and a projected \$1.8 million in FY04, in addition to paying increased tuition expenses.

V. BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Larry Leckonby provided the annual budget report, in the absence of Dr. Farvardin. He distributed spreadsheets for 2002-03 (FY03) and 2003-04 (FY04). He walked the Council through a review of FY03, including a detailed description of football and men's basketball revenues.

VI. ACADEMIC INCENTIVES / DISINCENTIVES

Dr. Wellford distributed an NCAA memorandum regarding the Division I framework for academic incentives and disincentives. He noted that only student-athletes are currently penalized for poor academic performance (ineligibility). These proposals would provide for teams and institutions to be penalized for poor academic performance, through denial of post-season opportunities, loss of scholarships, etc. The Council will discuss this topic at its May meeting.

VII. BCS OPTIONS

Dr. Wellford related that the current football TV contract extends through 2006 and that four options are being considered for 2007 and beyond:

- (1) continuation of current arrangement;
- (2) two winners of four BCS bowls play in a national championship game;
- (3) a playoff of the four BCS bowl game winners; or



- (4) a true playoff (anywhere from eight to sixteen teams, similar to Division II).

Council members discussed the financial impact on Maryland and the ACC, the academic impact on student-athletes, the impact on student-athlete welfare and the relative competitive values of the bowl system versus a true playoff system. Based on the discussion, Dr. Wellford will recommend to Dr. Mote that a true playoff model involving between eight and sixteen teams is not preferable, and that options (2) and (3) should be studied with more detail.

VIII. PROTECTING ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Dr. Wellford noted the academic issues that a number of high profile institutions are currently facing (Georgia, St. Bonaventure, etc.). Michael Lipitz distributed a handout that detailed a number of the policies and procedures the athletics department, Council, and other campus entities utilize to protect the academic integrity of the university, as related to student-athletes.

A primary role of Dr. Wellford, the Faculty Athletic Representative, is to serve as a liaison between coaches and faculty members whenever an issue arises in a class in which student-athletes are enrolled. Current practice is that coaches do not directly contact faculty members, but work through their sport supervisor and the FAR to resolve concerns. Dr. Yow requested that Council members consider whether this practice should be formally incorporated into the Athletic Council Policy Manual to best protect academic integrity.

IX. NCAA LEGISLATION

Dr. Wellford reported that he and Kathy Worthington continue to review upcoming issues and report the position of the campus to the appropriate governing body.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Lipitz

Assistant Athletics Director for Administration