



AGENDA

- I. INTRODUCTIONS & APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Dr. Wellford)
- II. CHAIR REPORT (Dr. Wellford)
- III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Dr. Yow)
- IV. PROPOSAL FOR ADDITION OF VARSITY SPORTS (Dr. Yow & Staff)
- V. NCAA ACADEMIC INCENTIVES/DISINCENTIVES (Dr. Wellford)
- VI. ATHLETIC COUNCIL POLICY MANUAL (Dr. Wellford)
 - A. DRUG TESTING (INFORMING COACHES OF FIRST POSITIVE)
 - B. FAR (LIAISON BETWEEN COACHES AND FACULTY)
- VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Athletic Council

May 8, 2003



I. INTRODUCTIONS & APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Dr. Wellford)

The Council approved the minutes from its April 2003 meeting.

II. CHAIR REPORT (Dr. Wellford)

Dr. Wellford discussed the potential expansion of the ACC. He noted that expansion is not a new topic, but rather, has been discussed within the conference for over six years. The Presidents of the nine member institutions will make the ultimate decision on whether to expand. ACC bylaws require that seven of nine schools vote for expansion.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Dr. Yow)

Dr. Yow distributed an update of the Director's Cup standings. Maryland is currently in 21st place, with a number of spring sports yet to compete in their respective NCAA championships.

IV. PROPOSAL FOR ADDITION OF VARSITY SPORTS (Dr. Yow & Staff)

Dr. Yow noted to the Council that the background research on the proposal for the addition of varsity sports was provided primarily by Shawn Flynn, Assoc. AD for Internal Operations. Before coming to work in Athletics, Shawn served as the Club Program Coordinator for Campus Recreation Services.

Dr. Yow explained that primary reason for adding two new sports is to ensure full compliance with federal Title IX guidelines for equity in athletics for Maryland's female student-athletes. The additions would ensure Maryland's compliance for both scholarship and participation numbers for the foreseeable future.

Dr. Yow described the department's ongoing communication with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) regarding varsity competitive cheerleading. She explained that the OCR provides technical guidance for a self-evaluation as to whether an activity is considered a sport. Maryland will administer the varsity competitive cheerleading program to comply with each of the factors provided by the OCR. She noted that competitive cheerleading is entirely different from the spirit squad, which supports football and men's and women's basketball.

Council member reviewed and discussed the information on women's water polo, competitive cheerleading, ice hockey and crew. Facilities, equipment, coaching staffs, travel, budget, etc. were discussed in regard to each of these teams.

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Dr. Bryer asked whether the eight men's teams that are currently underscholarshipped would benefit from the addition of water polo and competitive cheerleading. Dr. Yow explained that the opportunity for additional scholarships to be added to the eight men's teams would be a secondary benefit. She noted that a specific fundraising plan would need to be developed to secure private funds for such additional scholarships, as there is no possibility that the department can fund the scholarships at this time.

The Council voted 13 (Yes) – 0 (No) – 1 (Abstain) in favor of adding varsity women's water polo and competitive cheerleading.

V. NCAA ACADEMIC INCENTIVES/DISINCENTIVES (Dr. Wellford)

Dr. Wellford reported that the NCAA approved a rise in the required number of Core courses to 14-16 by 2007. He also noted that a new calculation for graduation rates was currently being considered.

Dr. Wellford also mentioned that academic incentives and disincentives were likely to be adopted in the near future. Council members discussed the pros and cons of incentives and disincentives. The Council discussed whether disincentives should be effect only the team that fails to meet required standards or whether they should impact the entire athletics program.

VI. ATHLETIC COUNCIL POLICY MANUAL (Dr. Wellford)

Dr. Wellford asked that the Council be prepared to consider two policy items in September. The first is whether coaches and sport supervisors should be informed of the first positive drug test of a student-athlete. The current policy is that coaches and sport supervisors are informed on a second positive drug test. Dr. Yow explained that knowledge of a first positive test would enable the supervisor and coach to intervene at an earlier stage to assist the student-athlete.

Dr. Wellford also asked the Council to consider a formal policy concerning the interaction between coaches and faculty. ICA's informal practice is for Dr. Wellford to serve as a liaison between coaches and faculty to prevent even the perception of impropriety.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

None. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Lipitz, Associate Athletics Director for Administration