



AGENDA

- I. INTRODUCTIONS (Dr. Wellford)
- II. CHAIR REPORT (Dr. Wellford)
 - A) Men's Basketball Graduation Rates Report
 - B) NCAA Academic & Student-Athlete Welfare Reforms
 - C) Academic Appeals Summary
 - D) National Letter of Intent (NLI) Policy – Implementation
 - E) UM Continuing Eligibility Requirements
- III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Dr. Yow)
- IV. ADMISSIONS REPORT (Dr. Gill)
- V. OTHER BUSINESS

Athletic Council

September 5, 2002



I. INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Wellford welcomed Council members and thanked them for their service on the 2002-03 Athletic Council.

He explained that the Council consists of 26 members, 18 of whom are voting members. He also reviewed the committee structure and referred new members to the Council Charter for more information on its charge and functions.

II. CHAIR REPORT

A. Action Plan for Men's Basketball Graduation Rates

Dr. Wellford explained that the plan was developed in response to a request from the Joint Chairman's Report of the 2002 Maryland General Assembly to improve the graduation rates of current and incoming student athletes in the basketball program. The plan was drafted by Dr. Wellford and ASCDU's Rob Koonce and Melvin Robinson and agreed to by Coach Williams. It was then reviewed by the Council's Executive Committee, which forwarded it to the Provost.

Dr. Wellford requested that Council members review and familiarize themselves with the plan. He noted that the NCAA is currently moving to adopt a graduation rate calculation that more accurately reflects the academic progress and graduation rates of student athletes.

B. Academic and Student Welfare Reforms

Academic Reforms

Initial Eligibility

Currently, to be initially eligible, a student athlete must have a combination of SAT and high school GPA, both of which have minimums (820 and 2.5 in 13 core courses). Dr. Wellford reported that the NCAA is likely to eliminate these "cut scores" and have a full sliding scale on GPA and SAT, while increasing the number of core courses to 14. He noted that this would place Maryland at a competitive disadvantage to many institutions that would accept minimum SAT and GPA scores.



Continuing Eligibility

Currently, to remain eligible a student athlete must earn 24 degree applicable credits each year, with at least 18 of those credits earned during the regular academic year (the so-called 75/25 rule), have a GPA of 1.9 entering the third year, a 2.0 entering the fourth year, and have completed 25%, 50% and 75% of their degree by their third, fourth and fifth years, respectively. Dr. Wellford reported that the legislation being considered would add a GPA requirement of 1.8 entering the second year and increase the degree completion requirement to 40%, 60% and 80%.

Maryland is the only ACC school supporting this proposal. Some Council members expressed concerns that proper advising becomes even more crucial in ensuring that student athletes are able to meet the proposed higher standards.

Student Athlete Welfare

Playing and Practice

ACC schools have not reached a consensus on playing and practice seasons, except that there is a general feeling that a reduction in the amount of time spent on athletics is necessary.

Benefits

A variety of benefits to offer student athletes have been identified, most of which have fiscal consequences. Dr. Wellford also noted that the new television contract that the NCAA recently signed with CBS provides for a payment to be made to each NCAA institution that must be used to directly benefit student athletes.

C. Continuing Eligibility

Dr. Wellford distributed a chart depicting the continuing eligibility standards at each NCAA institution. He noted that Maryland's new standards are the highest in the ACC.



D. Academic Eligibility Appeals

Dr. Jackson Bryer reported that the Academic Committee heard only two academic eligibility appeals following the spring 2002 semester, both of which were granted conditional eligibility based on satisfactory progress. He noted that the two appeals were a considerable decrease from previous semesters and thanked Rob Koonce and the ASCDU staff for their work in helping to ensure the academic success of Maryland student athletes.

E. National Letter of Intent Policy

Dr. Wellford distributed the NLI Policy with revised language that “decouples” the issuance of the NLI and the admissions decision. The Council unanimously approved the revised policy.

Previously, a coach was unable to issue a NLI without an admissions decision on the prospective student athlete. This led to a competitive disadvantage in the recruiting process. Coaches will now be able to issue an NLI prior to an admissions decision, but with written guidance from the Admissions Office as to what the prospective student athlete must achieve to be admissible.

F. Academic Probation/Dismissal Policy

Dr. Wellford distributed information on the new academic probation and dismissal policy that was instituted beginning with the fall 2002 semester. The policy requires that students maintain a semester and cumulative GPA of 2.0 or face academic probation and/or dismissal.

G. Student Ticket Distribution

Dr. Wellford informed the Council that the Ad Hoc University Committee on Student Ticket Distribution submitted its report to Dr. Mote in August and recommended a number of guiding principles that should be followed when adopting a specific distribution method. The 15 student members of the Committee then met separately and recommended the use of an online distribution system that utilizes the best available ticketing technology. Students will log onto www.tickets.umd.edu to secure tickets to all men’s basketball and football home games, have the ability to print their tickets at home on their personal computer, and have their attendance tracked by having their tickets scanned at the student entrance. Dr. Wellford thanked Michael Lipitz for his work with the Committee and his efforts to implement the new system.



H. “XF” - Office of Judicial Programs

Dr. Wellford commented that the current student code of conduct requires that students who receive an “XF” for academic dishonesty not represent the University in any extracurricular activities for a defined period of time. This can disproportionately affect student athletes who are prevented from representing their respective athletics teams.

Gary Pavela of OJP is currently considering a modification in the student code of conduct that would grant the student judicial board the discretion to prevent students from representing the University in extracurricular activities on a case-by-case basis. The Student Athlete Advisory Council (S.A.A.C.) is currently crafting language for consideration by the University Senate. Dr. Wellford will update the Council on this issue in October.

III. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

A. ICA Goals/Results

Dr. Yow informed the Council that Athletics’ annual goals and results have been posted on the department website at www.umterps.com. She encouraged Council members to visit the site and read the goals for the year, as well as the department’s progress over the past eight years.

B. Thank You

Dr. Yow thanked Council members for their service and for their willingness to work with a great degree of trust regarding the athletics department staff. She also thanked the ICA Senior Staff for its hard work and dedication to meeting the goals of the department.

C. ICA Staff Changes

Dr. Yow informed the Council that Rob and Jane Mullens would be leaving Maryland so that Rob can accept a similar position at the University of Kentucky. Larry Leckonby begins as Senior Associate AD for Business / CFO on September 16th.



D. Department of Education Commission on Title IX

Dr. Yow reported that she is currently serving on the DOE's Commission on Title IX, which has been charged with reviewing the effects of the civil rights legislation on its 30th anniversary. The Commission will conduct a series of town hall meetings through the end of the calendar year and then submit its report by the end of January.

E. Student Athlete Graduation Rates

Dr. Yow distributed a composite graduation rates chart and reported that the student athlete graduation rate for the 2002 (entering class of 1995-96) was 68%, compared to the 64% rate of the general student body. The exhausted eligibility rate for student athletes was 82% (calculates the graduation rate among student athletes who exhausted their athletic eligibility at Maryland).

F. Dallas Morning News Article

Dr. Yow distributed a June article from the Dallas Morning News that discussed the variety of challenges faced by athletic directors today.

G. Baltimore Sun Article

Dr. Yow distributed a June commentary featured in the Baltimore Sun that discussed media distortion of current events.

H. Student Athlete Code of Conduct

Dr. Yow requested that the Council review the current student athlete code of conduct for modifications related to drugs, alcohol and misconduct by prospective student athletes. The current policy covers only current Maryland student athletes, not those that have yet to matriculate.

IV. ADMISSIONS REPORT

Barbara Gill distributed copies of the annual admissions report to the Council and reminded members that the information is to be kept strictly confidential. She reviewed Tables 1 through 7 and commented that she had no admissions problems to report. She noted that mean GPAs and SATs were improved for student athletes and that athletics and admissions have a very good working relationship.

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V. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Lipitz

Assistant Athletic Director for Administration