

CONFIDENTIAL

FACULTY ACADEMIC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (FAOCIA)

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Summary of the Closed Meeting

This summary reflects a list of discussion and debate topics at a closed meeting of a committee of the University Senate or Twin Cities Faculty Delegation; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in this summary represents the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Delegation, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

PRESENT: Thomas Brothen, chair, Murray Jensen, Mark Nelson, Rich Weinberg, J.T. Bruett, Linda Brady, Doug Hartmann, Timothy Johnson

REGRETS: Mark Seeley and Priscilla Gibson

OTHERS: Jay Larson (Athletic Compliance) and Laura Coffin Koch (Associate Vice Provost, Academic Affairs)

Professor Thomas Brothen welcomed members and turned to Professor Doug Hartmann, who provided an overview of the mascot issue and the latest articles concerning the topic.

Next, Mark Nelson, director of the McNamara Academic Center for Student-athletes, presented the NCAA Graduation Report, the GSR (Graduation Success Rate), and the Course Progress Review. The NCAA Graduation Report information is based on the 6-year graduation rate entering freshmen in 2000. It includes anyone who received financial aid. He also provided the committee with data on the student-athletes who left the University and their academic and eligibility standing.

This led to a conversation about exit interviews. The athletics department does conduct exit interviews, it was noted, but the question raised was whether FAOCIA members or the FAR's were involved. The answer to that question is no, but should they be?

A motion was made that the FAOCIA request that the Athletics Department provide it with an overview of the exit interview process and a summary of the exit interviews of those who have left the University.

Mr. Nelson reported that an email regarding course progress updates went out under the signature of Craig Swan and Tom Brothen. The response rate at the time of this report was 43% - he expects that to increase within the next week or so. Mark will provide update at the next meeting. It was suggested that the MAC provide feedback to instructors about the information it receives.

Committee members went on to talk about the Brooks/Borlaug Award and decided that before it took any steps to revise the criteria, the Student-athlete Advisory Committee should have an opportunity to provide some input. Vickie Courtney will contact Luke Silovich to ask that he put it on the SAC agenda.

Mark Nelson noted that he and his staff are talking about creating the McNamara Student-Athlete of the Week Award.

Professors Linda Brady and Rich Weinberg reported on the key topics discussed at the Big 10 meetings.

- Kickoff for Men's basketball practice – skill instruction versus practice

- Grace period being considered by the NCAA for those sports that go below 925 APR. There is some discussion about a waiver process.
- Legislation regarding the use of student-athletes to advertise products (student-athletes do not receive any income if they are used in any of the advertisements)
- Big 10 branding

Members were reminded that a follow up meeting to the September hearing is in the process of being scheduled.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Vickie Courtney

University of Minnesota