

Advisory Committee on Athletics (ACA)

Minutes of the Meeting

March 6, 2008

These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Campus Delegation; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represents the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Delegation, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

PRESENT: Doug Hartmann (chair), Joel Maturi, Rich Weinberg, Luke Silovich, Linda Brady, J.T. Bruett, Tom Brothen, Mark Nelson, Virginia Zuiker, Melissa Avery

REGRETS: Patrick Walsh, Jerry Noyce, Clare Grimwood, Ron Greene, Duane Nelson, Linda Mona

ABSENT: Laurie McLaughlin and Douglas Olson

GUESTS: Gail Klatt (University Auditor and NCAA Certification Steering Committee Chair) and Kris Lockhart (Associate VP Office of Equity and Diversity)

I. Professor Hartmann called the meeting to order and began by asking for introductions. He welcomed Gail Klatt, University Auditor and NCAA Certification Steering Committee Chair and Kris Lockhart, associate vice president, Office of Equity and Diversity. Ms. Klatt and Lockhart were invited to present an overview of the NCAA Certification Self Study Report. Ms. Klatt noted that the full report includes sections on: Institutional Overview, Rules Compliance, Governance, Governance Standards, Academic Support, Gender Equity, Minority Equity, and Student-athlete Well-being. The report is long and somewhat repetitive because the NCAA is prescriptive in the questions that need to be answered and that the answers each need to “stand

on their own,” she said. The draft will be posted on a website, which will be open to the campus community. Consultation will continue through March 24 and that the report was due to the NCAA on May 1, 2008. In October, the NCAA will visit campus. Hearing no questions about the process, Ms. Klatt proceeded to walk through the sections of the report that she thought most salient to the ACA. The sections include:

- Governance and Institutional Control – members spent some time discussing the two-committee structure and agreed that it seemed to be working well.
- Gender Equity and Minority Issues – 600 student-athletes and 22 coaches responded to a survey – no issues were identified – overall people believed they are being treated equity. Kris Lockhart noted that the Office of Equity and Diversity, the President’s Office, and the ACA (Subcommittee on Equity), will conduct an annual review of the Gender Equity Plan. The plan is to develop a structure that is participatory.
- Student-athlete Well-being – MAC received high marks for the support it gives to student-athletes both in terms of their academic success and well-being.
- The self-study revealed that the MAC should be reviewed every three-years. Once this was recognized, a faculty review committee was established and a review was conducted.

Members then went on to discuss other salient points and/or recommendations, which include:

- The recommendation (in the report) to add a staff member to the Compliance Office;
- A suggested recommendation by Professor Hartmann to enhance the communication about the University’s commitment;
- The charges of the FAOCIA and ACA calls for an annual meeting of the voting members of the committees with the President – which has not been done. Meetings have been held between the President and the chairs and the faculty representatives. The question is whether to hold the meetings or to change the bylaws. After a brief discussion, a motion was made and passed NOT to change the bylaws and that the chairs of the FAOCIA and ACA would write to the President to request that meetings of the voting members only of the two committees meet with him on an annual basis.

II. Announcements

- The Coach and Faculty Conversation for spring semester will be held on April 14. ACA and FAOCIA faculty members are invited and encouraged to invite a colleague. Student-athletes will be invited to participate on a panel as well as student-athletes who will sit at each table. The student-athlete panel will be asked to address questions about their experiences as a student and an athlete. Luke Silovich and Clare Grimwood, ACA student-athlete members, are being invited to attend.
- Gary Engstrand, Secretary to the Faculty, Senate Office, will present information about the COIA at the April 3 meeting. Materials will be sent electronically.

- Professor Hartmann reported that he has not yet heard back from the Provost regarding the report and budget request of the committee that responded to Recommendation #5 of the Kane/Leo Task Force Report. Members urged Professor Hartmann to contact Professors Kane and Leo to find out the status of the Task Force Report. Members then spent some time discussing the work of the ACA's Subcommittee on Campus and Community Relations. It was agreed that the subcommittee and the athletics department have been working on, and quite successful, in creating activities and setting goals for building community. However, financial support is needed for the coach/faculty luncheons and for the support of cultivating stories about athletes, faculty, and coaches. If the administration supports and endorses the work of the Task Force and formed a committee to address Recommendation #5, then it should provide the resources necessary to accomplish the goals identified in its report. If the intent is to not financially support the efforts, then the committee should be told.

III. Reports

- Joel Maturi, athletics director, provided an update on the various sports teams and their standings in the Big 10. He reported that a search is underway for a women's head hockey coach. Members of the athletics department have been participating in the NCAA Self Study and the building of the stadium is well underway. Vickie Courtney announced that she is working with Scott Ellison to identify a time to schedule a tour of the facilities for the ACA.
- J.T. Bruett, director, Athletic Compliance, reported that Jay Larson accepted a position at San Diego State University as the Assistant Director for Compliance. He will leave his position at Minnesota the end of March.
- Mark Nelson, director, MAC, reported that the search for the data analyst position is well underway.

IV. Discussion – Faculty Feeling Disconnected from Athletics

Professor Hartmann led a general discussion about the article that was sent to committee members regarding faculty feeling disconnected from athletics. The article was from the Chronicle of Higher Education, discussing a nationwide survey of faculty attitudes. The summary of the report states “the large segment of uninformed faculty is particularly noteworthy.” Professor Hartmann was interested in hearing what members thought about the issue and how it might relate to what the Kane/Leo Task Force Report outlined and the response to Recommendation #5 of the Task Force Report.

- The feeling of being disconnected includes faculty and staff.

- There is a sense of mistrust of what is being done – an example is of the course progress report.
- Athletics has a high visibility – anytime that something negative happens, it tarnishes the reputation of athletics.
- Special admits, rankles the faculty and staff – however, other students who fall under the “special admit” status are not viewed the same.
- It would be beneficial to send out the brochure that was developed a few years ago by the Provost’s Office.
- It might be beneficial for the director of MAC to go to College meetings and to new faculty orientation to discuss some of the issues, including the course progress report. This would be one way to educate new faculty about the MAC.

V. April 3 meeting – discussion about COIA and then a follow up discussion after presentation from Gary Engstrand,

Hearing no further business, Professor Hartmann adjourned the meeting.

Vickie Courtney

University of Minnesota Senate Office

“Go Gophers”