

Minutes\*

**Assembly Steering Committee  
Thursday, May 15, 2003  
12:00 – 1:00  
Room 238A Morrill Hall**

Present: Dan Feeney (chair), Jean Bauer, Judy Berning, Arthur Erdman, Marti Hope Gonzales, Kari Lindeman, Judith Martin, Martin Sampson, Charles Speaks

Absent: Muriel Bebeau, Tom Clayton, Mary Jo Kane, Candace Kruttschnitt, Marvin Marshak (students were not counted absent because it was finals week)

Guests: Professor Laura Koch (Chair, Faculty Academic Oversight Committee for Intercollegiate Athletics); Charles Campbell (chair-designate, Senate Committee on Finance and Planning)

Others: none

[In these minutes: Twin Cities athletic policies]

**Twin Cities Athletic Policies**

Professor Feeney convened the meeting at 12:05 and welcomed Professor Koch to lead a discussion of the revisions in Twin Cities campus athletic policies. He said the Committee would rely heavily on recommendations from the Committee on Educational Policy, which had devoted parts of three meetings to a review of the policy proposals, and on the work of the Faculty Academic Oversight Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics (FAOCIA) and the Advisory Committee on Athletics, which had developed the proposals initially. [This Committee, the Steering Committee of the Twin Cities Campus Assembly, is charged by the bylaws with responsibility for approving policies and policy changes for the Twin Cities campus athletic programs. The policies and policy changes are then reported to the Twin Cities Campus Assembly for information.]

Professor Sampson reported that the Committee on Educational Policy had reviewed the policies quite thoroughly; there were no stand-offs, he said, where the committee took an adverse view of a policy.

The Committee spent some time considering the Policy on Eligibility and Continuation, which sets the gradepoint averages a student must achieve and maintain in order to compete in intercollegiate athletics. The Big Ten allows students with a gradepoint average below 2.0 to compete; the University does not. Professor Koch reported that FAOCIA voted to maintain the University's 2.0 requirement but the policy does allow for an appeal. There are, however, very few students who fall in that gap between the Big Ten and the University standard (she has seen two such students in three years). The Committee discussed for some while with Professor Koch whether or not a student who does not meet the academic standard should also be withheld from practice as well as competition. The Committee agreed with the

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reasons Professor Koch advanced that students should not be withheld from practice. The Committee also discussed the number of credits students should be required to enroll for in order to compete.

Professor Koch provided brief comments on a number of the other policies being reviewed.

-- Athletes who are gone for more than 2 days in a week must have a study plan in place before they can travel with a team. FAOCIA does not look fondly on the rule that permits students to miss 9 days in a semester (it was 6 days when the University was on quarters). Some teams never come close to the maximum (e.g., football); others exceed it (but in those cases it is usually individual competition, so FAOCIA examines the schedules of each student).

-- They continually receive pressure from coaches who want to contact faculty about the academic progress of an athlete. FAOCIA has continued to not allow such contact. Some coaches, however, interpreted the policy as barring ALL contact with faculty, which was not the intent, and that has been clarified. They want to ENCOURAGE integration of athletics and the academic community.

-- If an athlete wishes to participate in an invitational event, he or she must make whatever arrangements they can with the faculty member, just like any other student. These are not events for which the student is excused.

-- To participate in a foreign tour, a student must be eligible for the next year--they cannot do poorly during the year and then go on a foreign tour in the summer.

-- If an athlete does not complete the necessary academic work during the regular academic year, he or she must attend summer school if he or she wishes to compete the following year. 75% of the academic work, however, must be completed during the regular academic year.

-- They have some concern about athletes in summer school, both because of the cost to the athletic department and because of the impact on the student (a break might be better for some).

The Committee then voted unanimously in favor of the policies.

Professor Feeney thanked Professor Koch for the work of her committee and of the Advisory Committee on Athletics. These policies, Professor Sampson commented, reflect the enormous effort that the two committees are required to do. Professor Erdman concurred and said the Committee appreciated Professor Koch's hard work and the progress that has been made.

Professor Erdman also reported that Athletic Director Joel Maturi has asked for the appointment of a subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Athletics to go over the athletic department strategic plans. The subcommittee is to include one member from the Senate Committee on Finance and Planning.

Professor Feeney adjourned the meeting at 12:45.

-- Gary Engstrand