

Advisory Committee on Athletics (ACA)

November 2, 2006

Minutes of the Meeting

These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University 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: Melissa Avery (chair), Joel Maturi, Maria Sera, Laurie McLaughlin, Suzannah Mork, Doug Hartmann, Mark Nelson, J.T. Bruett, Jonathan Loveall, Perry Leo, Rich Weinberg, Linda Brady, Linda Mona, Katie Meyer

REGRETS: Doug Olson, Jerry Noyce, Duane Nelson

Professor Avery called the meeting to order and directed members' attention to the first item of business – a request from the athletics department to discuss the ACA Competition and Anti-discrimination policy. Members were provided with a copy of the policy and the recommendations of the 2006 ACA Working Committee that reviewed the policy, responding to a request by the athletics department to do so.

Professor then turned to athletics director, Joel Maturi, to provide the committee with information regarding his current request. Mr. Maturi explained that the University of North Dakota is making steps to move all of its athletics programs to the Division I level. Currently, UND is Division II in all sports with the exception of men and women's ice hockey. Minnesota plays those two sports because they are in our conference and we do not control the schedule. Because there are very few Division I programs are geographically close to the Twin Cities and the fact that it would be financially prudent for other sports to play against the University of North Dakota (such as travel expenses and the guarantees the department pays, not to mention the fan base it might bring), Mr. Maturi expressed an interest in pursuing the ability to schedule contests with the other sports teams. He emphasized his sensitivity to the policy and he noted that the NCAA has not yet given North Dakota a waiver like it has to several other institutions.

The ACA supported the athletics director request to play Central Michigan previously because the NCAA had approved them. The Tribe at Central Michigan was in favor of using the name whereas the Tribe in Grand Forks was not in favor of using their name. UND is preparing a law suite against the NCAA regarding this matter.

Professor Avery then provided an overview of the review of the policy and the Working Committee's recommendations. She pointed out that the Working Committee and the full ACA approved the recommendations. She noted that the Committee purposefully decided to leave the final decision about playing teams who use Native American mascots up to the athletics department. Professor Leo, chair, FAOCIA, remarked that the second level of review is notification of any such scheduling to the FAOCIA, which is the governing body that approves team schedules, not approving whether or not the athletics department decides to play.

Professor Weinberg asked if logos using Native American mascots in the University of Minnesota athletics facilities had been removed. Mr. Maturi said he would make sure that has been done. Another question he asked was whether there was any legal issues to consider since UND has a pending law suite? Mr. Maturi replied that the NCAA does not tell an institution that they cannot compete.

When asked about which schools have received a waiver from the NCAA to use Native American mascots, J.T. Bruett, interim director of Compliance, responded that Central Michigan and Florida State have won the appeals. Illinois is looking at getting rid of its mascot.

Professor Leo pointed out that the policy does state that the athletics department should strongly discourage the scheduling of athletic events on campus when the team(s) involved use Native American mascots. He added that he understood the reasons why the department would want to play these teams but it is opposite of what is stated in the policy. Mr. Maturi said that the department did not have to play them, but we do play them in the most visible sport. He added that if the department did play them, the department would follow the recommendations embedded in the policy.

Professor Hartmann added that it is his opinion that if the athletics department wants to play them, it would go against the policy. If the Committee decides to support the athletics department in playing North Dakota or any other school, it would be a fundamental change in the policy. The exemption for hockey is because of the conference affiliation. Professor Avery reiterated the language of the policy, emphasizing that the ACA is advisory and ultimately the

decision is that of the athletics department. She further pointed out that the policy discourages playing teams on our campus but it does not specify the University playing on other campuses.

Mr. Maturi stated at this point that he would not schedule competition with North Dakota, except in the sport of men's and women's hockey. He agreed that the policy was important and that he would rather not play with the language and interpret that it would be okay to play at their campus but not here.

The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to the current policy and agreed that it would continue to watch the action of the NCAA.

Reports

Professor Perry Leo, chair, FAOCIA reported the following:

- A subset of FAOCIA members is conducting a review of Men's Basketball – the new initiative is titled "Process for Enhancing Academic Performance," or PEAP.
- Task Force work is almost done. When completed, there will be an opportunity for the athletics committees to review and comment.
- Task Force findings include data about student-athletes who leave the University without getting a degree but have more than 100 credits. The University will need to address this issue.

Members then went on to discuss the importance of having "good news" stories in the paper rather than always negative. It is unfortunate the media prefers to report on only those items that can be sensationalized.

Joel Maturi, athletics director, reported on the following;

- The positive aspect of the Task Force report
- The Life Skills program that is being led by Leo Lewis and the positive impact it will have
- An overview of all of the sports and their performance
- Financial picture – department is in the black.

Professor Rich Weinberg and Linda Brady, Faculty Reps reported on the following:

- Sportsmanship and the importance of it – noting that there is a fine line between cheering and harassment
- At the NCAA level - the Presidential Task Force on the Future of Division I Athletics
- Big 10 Network – Fox TV – Rich and Linda have met with VP Kathy Brown regarding the 60-66 hours of programming that will need to be developed

Mark Nelson, director, MAC, reported on the following:

- MAC staff has met with Associate Vice Provost Craig Swan to discuss issues facing student-athletes getting into classes they want
- MAC staff is proactively working to reach to the broader campus and has met with ICP and CLA advising groups, counseling services and is scheduling a meeting with the advisors in the College of Education and Human Development
- MAC has re-done their mission statement

It was suggested that the committee invite Dean Darlyne Bailey, College of Education, and Heidi Barajas, associate dean, to an upcoming meeting.

J.T. Bruett, director, Compliance, reported on the following:

- Updates on audits and investigations

NOTE: The December 7th joint meeting of the ACA and the FAOCIA will be dedicated to NCAA Legislation.

Hearing no further business, Professor Avery adjourned the meeting.

Vickie Courtney

University Senate Office

