

Intercollegiate Athletics Committee
Minutes of the November 18, 2011 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 11: 00 a.m. In attendance were:

Andy McCollough, Chair
Joe Glover
Albert Matheny
Mike Katovich
Jeremy Foley
Keith Carodine
Joe Delfino
Jamie McCloskey
Lynda Tealer
Chip Howard
Mike Hill
Jessica Harland-Jacobs
Mike Sagas - FAR
Dave Kratzer
Rebecca Pauly
Dave Bloomquist, Secretary

Guest: Coach Kevin Sullivan

Agenda

1. Introduction and discussion with Coach Kevin O' Sullivan
2. Approval of the minutes of the September 11, 2011, meeting.
3. Review of Tutor Survey – Dave Bloomquist
4. Review of the “clustering” data (enrollment/degrees; SA/SB) – Andy McCollough
5. Discussion of APR/GSR
6. Post Baccalaureate status (SA/SB)
7. Athletic Compliance Review Report - Jamie McCloskey
8. Further discussion of IAC responsibilities as specified by 2006 self-study – Mike Katovich
9. Liaison Updates
10. Student and Student Athlete Reports
11. Other Business

ITEM 1. Discussion with Coach O'Sullivan

The Chair began the meeting by introducing Kevin O'Sullivan to the committee and outlined our charge to the Coach. Kevin then proceeded to explain his coaching philosophy as it relates to academics vis-à-vis the baseball team. He reiterated numerous times that having a strong academic program entices many recruits to sign with UF. He singled out several people (from the Admissions Office and UAA's Office for Student Life [OSL]) that are a tremendous help in the recruiting process. He went on to explain the unrealistic expectations of many of his student athletes (S.A.s) on “making it” in the Majors (MLB) and hence he demands that they concentrate on their education, since it (and not BB) will most likely be their ultimate career path.

Because of the unique relationship between college baseball and MLB, he insists that his players get as close to graduation as possible by their Junior year. Then, if drafted, they will more likely return to complete their degrees after baseball. He cited some interesting statistics. For example, he requires his student athletes to take 15 credit hours per semester (compared to the 12 hour minimum). He estimates that a UF diploma is worth \$3.1 M (and uses this fact as an incentive for recruits to attend college, as opposed to accepting a large signing bonus). Finally, he cited two anecdotes, both related to academic successes.

He then opened up the meeting for questions. One dealt with scholarships and how they are distributed. Another, with the recruiting process time line - i.e., when does a high school student know if he has a scholarship and for how much? A member asked if baseball players have more issues with class attendance, since they must miss numerous days due to competition. However, Kevin said that players' out-of-season GPAs are slightly lower than during the Spring, ostensibly due to the need for critical time management. His parting comment was that while there are many inducements for students to go professional, recruiting athletes that understand the importance of a college degree greatly enhances a team's stability (and helps reduce a coach's anxiety!)

ITEM 2. Approval of the September 11, 2011 Meeting Minutes

The minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting. The Chair asked for any corrections and hearing none, the minutes were passed by acclamation.

ITEM 3. Tutor Survey Review (handout)

Andy started the discussion by explaining how vital OSL's tutors are to the success of the S.A.s. He also reminded the group that at other schools, tutoring programs have been problematic. Bloomquist briefly discussed the anonymous survey that is posted online each semester for the S.A.s to complete. Jeremy reiterated the importance of preventing any improprieties that might arise. The Chair asked the members to look it over and send any comments or suggestions to Keith or Dave so that an updated survey can be discussed at the next meeting for the Spring semester release.

ITEM 4. Review of the "Clustering" Data (handout)

Andy explained the motivation for this Agenda item. Basically, how do the majors of S.A.s compare to the student body at large? A recent newspaper article focused on this topic. Based on data supplied by the Registrar and Keith's office, a summary (handout) was created and distributed. He pointed out the differences between the two groups - particularly with respect to the large number of student athletes in an "exploratory major". Keith explained that it is very difficult for an athlete to change majors, since in order to compete, they must complete a certain number of credits towards their degree. If they change majors, it could adversely affect their progress and hence playing time. It was noted that students are only allowed to remain in this "major" for three terms, upon which, they must then declare a named major.

Andy will recruit an IAC member to work with him and Keith to further vet this topic. For example, why is Anthropology the number one major for S.A.s, yet does not make the top ten list for the students at large? Or, how does the distribution break down with regards to freshmen versus

seniors, or by each sport? The Provost was curious as to whether more S.A.s would like to major in Biology (for example), but that the structure of the curriculum precludes this choice. Albert mentioned that because Psychology is so popular, it has instituted artificial barriers to limit enrollment. This is perhaps one reason why more S.A.s are not in this major. Keith affirmed this point, stating that many would like to be in Sports Management or Business Management, but can't get accepted due to limited access criteria.

ITEM 5. Discussion of the APR/GSR (handout)

Andy distributed data on the GSR (Graduation Success Rate), indicating how our S.A.s are doing compared to the national average (i.e., the other NCAA institutions). He said this was promulgated by an October NCAA report ("Trends in Academic Success Rates") that provides data on graduation trends. He feels that the IAC needs to be conversant on how these data reflect on UF. As an example, he cited our Basketball team's 38% graduation rate and the importance for the committee to understand the causal circumstances that produced this low figure.

Jeremy echoed Andy's sentiments, stating that this low number also reflects poorly on UF from a public relations perspective. But more importantly, this information will allow the IAC to provide input to the UAA, if the committee feels something needs addressing. He also reminded the members that the APR (Academic Progress Report - {progress towards graduation}) is extremely important, since falling below a 930 will result in exclusion from competition.

Joe Delfino asked why the NBA and NCAA can't come to some agreement on S.A.s leaving after one year. Jeremy went on to explain why Basketball is unique, and that at the present time this issue is not on either organization's radar. Ultimately, he feels the operation (i.e., the culture) of the NCAA needs to be re-evaluated.

Andy asked Dave B. to further investigate this with regards to UF and to report back at the next meeting with his findings.

ITEM 6. Post Baccalaureate Status

Andy simply wants to bring this issue to the IAC's attention, specifically with regards to "redshirting". When a S.A. is redshirted, his or her academic progress versus eligibility diverge. Then upon graduation, they have another year of eligibility remaining (e.g., they graduate in four years, but have another year of eligibility). This then forces them to; enter Post-Bac status, start a second degree or begin graduate school (Masters). Andy thinks that we (UF) should come up with a strategy that helps all students when this type of situation arises. This is becoming more critical, since UF is reducing the Post-Bac category (due in part to class "over subscription"). He will put together a group to look into this and report back at the next meeting.

The Provost explained the university's stance on Post-Bacs, which was not directly instigated by the redshirt issue. Since the majority of Post-Bacs are part time students, UF has to deal with a concomitant lack of access to full time students pursuing their degrees. Since UF is at capacity in the Fall, these part time students usurp freshmen slots.

ITEM 7. Athletics Compliance Review Report

Jamie updated the committee regarding last November's compliance review by a consultant. The final report was laudatory and its recommendations are currently being implemented.

ITEM 8. Further discussion of the IAC Responsibilities

Due to the lateness of the meeting, Andy said that the subcommittee working on this will provide a revised matrix on the IAC's duties and responsibilities. This will better define our charges and in turn, help with the next Self-Study Report.

ITEM 9. Liaison Updates

The F.A.R. (Mike Sagas) had nothing to report.

Jeremy added that with regards to the Penn State situation, the Vice Presidents are charged with examining their procedures (reporting incidences protocols) and that Lynda Tealer will lead a UAA committee to check its reporting processes (not simply related to sexual harassment). She will update the IAC at the next meeting.

Lynda, in turn, had nothing new to report.

Keith reminded the members of the December 8th graduating seniors luncheon in the Gator Room. He said the committee members had received an invitation.

Jamie had already reported previously (Item 7)

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*David Bloomquist,
IAC Secretary*