

Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Minutes of the March 15, 2012 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9 a.m. In attendance were:

*Andy McCollough, Chair
Albert Matheny
Mike Katovich
Keith Carodine
Joe Delfino
Jamie McCloskey
Jessica Harland-Jacobs
Mike Sagas - FAR
Rebecca Pauly
Dave Kratzer
Dave Bloomquist, Secretary*

Agenda

1. Review and approval of the minutes of the January 20, 2012, meeting.
2. Increased participation in the tutor survey- Dave Bloomquist & Keith Carodine
3. Clustering Study Update – Joe Delfino
4. IAC Website – Mike Sagas
5. Eligibility /Graduation Timelines – Albert Matheny
6. Preparatory Classes– Keith Carodine
7. Graduation Success Rate- Dave Bloomquist
8. Data Compilation – Andy McCollough
9. FAR Report – Mike Sagas
10. Liaison Updates
11. Student and Student Athlete Reports
12. Other Business

Prior to the approval of the minutes, the Chair briefly discussed the distributed handouts. The sole purpose was to keep the committee informed on issues germane to our charge.

Of particular interest were the APR scores for the BB tournament participants and the observation that UF's data, while good, were not outstanding. The other handout concerned UNC and the NCAA sanctions for academic fraud. The point of interest was that it was related to their tutoring program. He reiterated that our tutoring program is extremely important and it only takes one transgression to impact the entire Athletics program.

He went on to explain the rationale for the IAC's existence, i.e., its primary responsibility is to the Faculty and our deliberations germinate from the academic perspective and are not mandated from the President or Provost. Of course, they have a strong interest in the academics as well, but ultimately, it is a faculty driven enterprise, augmented by our liaison (UAA) and administration members.

Another item was his synopsis of Jeremy's presentation to the Faculty Senate. While his presentation was excellent, he was surprised at the questions he fielded. That is to say, it doesn't seem that faculty understands what is happening at UF with our student athletes. Mike Sagas, showed the committee Auburn's CIA (Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics) website, which provides a current overview of the issues, issues our IAC currently deals with. Their mission is much broader and their site is readily accessible to all interested parties.

<http://www.auburntigers.com/cia/>

Included are video clips, for example, explaining eligibility requirements, graduation requirements, etc. Andy wondered if we should be doing something similar.

Mike S. then proceeded to detail Auburn's CIA, mentioning that he liked their "Feedback" program for other SEC FARs. While not advocating videos, he did suggest having coaches tape short videos, explaining their philosophies, issues associated with their respective programs, etc. Other differences between the IAC and CIA were, their CIA's FAR is the Chair, and the committee is directly under the Athletic Association. The Faculty Senate Chair asked Mike if he could supply links to the Senate website dealing with athletics.

While no formal vote was taken, Andy asked if we should further investigate the creation of such a site. The consensus was yes and he said he had some IT personnel that could start the process. He will then send the members a tentative design for comments. Ultimately he would like something ready to go next Fall.

Albert agreed that faculty in general are not aware of the regulations concerning SAs missing classes for competition. He thought having this presented on a website would be beneficial for everyone. Keith suggested "Gator Times" and Albert, "Faculty Update" as possible recurring venues for IAC information dissemination.

ITEM 1. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the January 20, 2012 minutes as distributed. Hearing no comments, they were unanimously approved.

ITEM 2. Increased participation in the tutor survey

Background. Our electronic tutor survey (SAs surveying the OSL's tutoring program) has failed to receive a majority of student input. Hence, Keith and Dave B. were charged with suggesting other modes of participation.

Keith talked to the Academic Councilors and one suggestion was that students take the survey during their team meetings. The downside is they would be paper surveys that would have to be manually "graded". Who would administer them was discussed. For some sports it would be the coach administering them. However, for those teams, it was suggested that an IAC member come to the team meeting and do it. Dave B. volunteered to create a workable paper survey.

Jamie recommended that his office help coordinate the effort, since every team must meet during the Spring semester with his group.

After some discussion, it was felt that the questions that asked whether a coach had helped a SA academically, should be changed to “has anyone helped...”. The consensus is that surveys of this type do not need IRB approval.

ITEM 3. Clustering Study Update

Joe first acknowledged the help from Keith and Albert on providing topical information. He pointed out that SAs are at a disadvantage compared to the general population in that they do not have the luxury of multiple major changes due to NCAA progress towards graduation requirements.

Joe thought that maybe an anonymous survey of recent SA graduates on why they chose their particular major would be beneficial. These data would be compared to a cohort of general graduates. Albert remarked that Sociology and Anthropology have sufficient graduates for a statistical comparison, but others might not.

Andy reminded the members on why the IAC is engaged in this topic. Albert then explained the exploratory tract that many SAs first are placed in. He also felt that the term “clustering” when dealing with 10% of a number of SAs was a poor choice of terms.

There was a lengthy discussion on this topic. Finally Andy said he would get with Keith and Joe to decide how to proceed.

ITEM 4. IAC Website

This Item was previously discussed.

ITEM 5. Eligibility /Graduation Timelines

Albert explained the dilemma with SAs that red-shirt, resulting in another year of eligibility, yet have already satisfied their graduation requirements. The NCAA requires that they take courses that count towards their degree. The solutions include a double major or continue on to graduate school. Unfortunately, a third, post-baccalaureate studies, employed by other schools, is not available at UF – unless it is a unique situation.

The idea of a minor was discussed, but had negative ramifications with respect to the NCAA. Discussion ensued on options. The final consensus was for Albert to draft a white paper addressed to the Registrar, Dr. Zina Evans, explaining the situation and a proposed compromise. It would then be vetted by the IAC. Albert said he would need data such as what other schools provide post-bac status, how many students are included, etc..

ITEM 6. Preparatory Classes

Keith distributed a handout that listed the State of Florida’s approved preparatory courses with their ACT and SAT cutoff scores that require matriculation. Albert remarked that approximately 400 students per year are readmitted to AIM. If they do not pass a particular course after the third attempt, they are not allowed to continue at UF. These courses count as regular courses for the NCAA, and it will accept up to 6 credit hours, the first year, as progress towards graduation. He also summarized the AIM program.

With regards to AIM, Andy mentioned that the current Director is assembling data on student participation in the program. Once they are available, it will be discussed at a future meeting. He feels it is important for the committee to have some knowledge of the subset of students taking advantage of it.

Albert remarked that the UAA pays for the entire AIM program, even though the number of SAs is low and declining. He went on to state that the graduation rates are virtually identical to the general population – confirmed by Mark Rush’s 2005 data analysis.

ITEM 7. Graduation Success Rate

Due to the time, Dave B. was asked to postpone his presentation. However, he provided handouts showing the rates for each sport compared to the national averages. He suggested that these plots be continually updated in order to catch any problematic trends.

ITEM 8. Data Compilation

Andy will discuss this at a future meeting.

ITEM 9. FAR Report

Mike Sagas will report to the Faculty Senate at their April 15th meeting and provide an update. He will include a summary of his meeting with SACCS (Student Athletes Committee) regarding any academic concerns that they have as SAs. He mentioned that travel was an issue, vis-à-vis students not being able to turn in their homework on time.

ITEM 10. Liaison Updates

Jamie reported that the NCAA Board of Directors will meet in April and August and there will be some major changes in rules that will affect IAC operations. Examples include: academic requirements, regulations, enforcement. The FAR has a handout summarizing the proposed changes and this item will be discussed at the next meeting.

Keith said the graduation lunch is April 26th and all IAC members are invited.

ITEM 11. Student and Student Athlete Reports

Since there was no representation, there was nothing to report.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

*David Bloomquist,
IAC Secretary*