

Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics  
Report to Council, 8 February, 2007

The Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics met on Friday, Jan 26, 2007 at 4:00 pm in the Rankin Smith Student-Athlete Academic Building. Committee members present were Malcolm Adams (chair), Bill Barstow, Jere Morehead, Dean Rojek, and Claudia Shamp. Visitors were: Glada Horvat, Carla Williams, and Ted White of the Athletic Association, Denise Gardner and Charles Mathies of the Office of Institutional Research, and Rebecca Quigley of the Athens Banner Herald.

The first item on the agenda was a discussion with Denise Gardner and Charles Mathies of the Office of Institutional Research (OIR) on the feasibility of running a study of course clustering for student-athletes. The committee requested that OIR run a search for course sections with over 20% student-athlete enrolment, they will also report to us the grade distribution of students in the section and the grade distribution of student-athletes in the section. The 20% cut off was arbitrarily chosen at this point; we may decide to adjust that as we see some data. The purpose study is to ensure that student-athletes are not clustering in courses where they might be given preferential treatment. It is recognized by the committee that there may be legitimate reasons that a particular section of a course has an inordinately high student-athlete population (e.g. scheduling conflicts with team practices). Thus, it is important to note that this stage of the study is merely a flagging of courses that might merit further study.

The committee then turned to a discussion of a proposal from the Student Government Association on the distribution of student football tickets. The key feature of their proposal is that ticket distribution would be staggered according to the number of credit hours earned, and that distribution would occur after 5:00 pm on weekdays. Some members of the committee cautioned that the 5:00 pm distribution time will only encourage students to stand in line all afternoon and so voiced a preference for weekend distribution. It was discussed that weekend distribution comes with its own problems: it might encourage camping out on Friday night and there is not enough time on the weekend to stagger four different seniority groups. Finally a vote was taken and the majority voted in favor of supporting the students' plan.

A few moments at the end of the meeting were spent on future plans for the semester. The next meeting of the committee will be on Tuesday, February 20 at 2:00 pm to conduct the NCAA required interview of student-athletes and academic support staff. There is also a meeting tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 29 at 4:00 pm. The Athletic Director will be at that meeting so committee members are asked to plan advance topics for him to discuss.

The committee adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Malcolm Adams, Chair

