

4.21.2009

University Council  
Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics  
Final Report

The Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics (CIA) met six times from October 2008 to March 2009. Members are: Jerry Gale, Sarajane Love, Jere Morehead, Tony Capomacchia, Hunter Lainhart, Chad Brantley, Wyatt Anderson, Jerry Gale, and Mark Cooney.

We complied with assigned duties as follows:

We met with Athletic Director Damon Evans on 6 November to review Athletic Association (AA) policies and plans regarding student athlete academic success. The Athletic Association supports academics as *per* NCAA and UGA guidelines, but seeks greater consistency in student athlete graduation rates. UGA surpasses the NCAA Academic Progress Rate (APR) and wants UGA to be the best academically and athletically; does not want to be seen as exploiting athletes. UGA is progressing but the AA is on a mission to be better.

Ted White (Director of Academic Support Services) reported (11 December) on academic support services for UGA student-athletes. UGAAA (UGA Athletic Association) academic standards are much higher than those of the NCAA. UGA student-athletes take 30 credit hours/year whereas NCAA requires 24. UGAAA tries to have athlete's complete requirements in 3.5 years using Maymester/summer to shorten time in residence. Academic facilities include 31,000sq/ft Rankin Smith building with state of the art technology; a writing center, math/computer lab, smart classrooms, computer access, *etc.* Academic support staff includes 8 counselors, 4 specialists, class checkers, mentors and graduate students. Student-athletes at UGA average 2.95 GPA; 51% earned 3.0 or better; 11 teams earned 3.0 or better; football 2.77 (best ever). UGA is fourth in the BCS top ten institutions regarding grades.

Eric Baumgartner (Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance) reported (11 December) on academic fraud, academic dishonesty and unethical conduct. Academic fraud involves institutional staff member involvement and a student-athlete; academic dishonesty involves a student-athlete academic offense (like cheating) with no involvement by an institutional member. Academic fraud is most serious, in that the penalties could be severe and may result in NCAA sanctions when discovered; it is considered unethical conduct by NCAA. UGA has no current problems in this area.

On 26 January Glada Horvat, Assistant Athletic Director for Academics and Eligibility, presented a very detailed report regarding the UGA admissions process, transfer admissions, and NCAA/SEC academic eligibility rules. UGA has no problems in this area.

Student athletes must meet all requirements of regular students. They also undergo Academic Credit Evaluation by coaches and evaluation by Sports administrators (like Carla Williams); if academic deficiencies are present they have 30 hrs/yr to clear or correct them; NCAA qualified student athletes may be admitted under certain rare circumstances by UGA President; behavioral evaluation is also part of the admissions process; international student athletes must present specific scores on TOEFL, SAT critical reading, or ACT English; financial statement and I-20.

Transfer Student Athletes are required to present with 3.2 GPA if 30 – 59 hrs of study have been completed; and 2.5 for >60 hrs; 4 years continuous playing in a five year period.

NCAA eligibility Rules state that no practice or competition unless a registered full time student (12hrs); 24/18 rule, first year students must earn 24 hr degree credit and eighteen must be from fall/spring terms; students beyond first year may earn 18 hr/yr; a major must be declared by the third year; degree completion rate, 40 by 3rd yr, 60% BY 4th/5th YR, 80% by 5<sup>th</sup> yr.

APRE (academic performance rate) and GSR (graduate success rate) are measured over four and six year periods, respectively. APR is computed as a function of (#points earned from team eligibility) + (# team members returning) X (the # of total team members) = APR; the NCAA cutoff is 925, such that a number lower than 925 could result in NCAA sanctions such as scholarship loss.

Carla Williams, Senior Associate Athletic Director presented (23 February) on UGAAA Title IX compliance and the EADA (Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act) report for 2008, for academic year 06/07. It is a detailed 17 page document that shows how UGA complies with NCAA Title IV and EADA guidelines. Suffice it to say that we comply thanks to the hard work put in by Carla and the AA Staff.

The last meeting of the year on 30 March concluded our duties with interviews of Coaches, Student Athletes and AA Support Staff. The report is attached. Important points from the interviews are:

Coaches think it would be beneficial to have in place a consistent policy concerning student athlete absences from class owing to athletic travel.

Student Athletes want the faculty to know that their commitment to athletics mirrors faculty commitment to academics; most student athletes want to do well in both, but are constrained by time and energy.

The AA Support Staff want to be known 'as academic coaches' who complement the 'team coaches'. They are USG employees with loyalty to the academic success and graduation of the student athletes, and to serve the AA in this capacity.

Last, the CIA wants to publicly thank the Athletic Association Director Damon Evans for committing six million dollars to support academics at UGA over the next three years.

Respectfully submitted,  
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