

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Since the committee was not formally consulted on any athletic issue during the course of the year, its activities were aimed at fulfilling its general mandate to keep informed of athletic policy and to monitor the academic status of student athletes.

At the beginning of the year, the committee adopted a set of By-Laws prescribing regular activities directed toward accomplishing its duties and insuring continuity in its work from year to year.

During its seven meetings, the committee has consulted with various officials of the athletic department including Mr. Bob Marcum, the Athletic Director, Head Football Coach Joe Morrison, Department Academic Counsellor Harold White, and the Financial Director of the Department, Dr. John Moore. In addition, the Registrar and the Director of Admissions regularly attend the meetings as consultants. The committee has tried this year to obtain an accurate picture of the situation facing student athletes, especially those having academic problems. It reports the following information to the faculty:

The academic careers of athletes are subject to NCAA rules which in recent years have undergone a gradual strengthening - a trend which has had the full support of our Athletic Department. Limitations on the number of scholarships have made it essential that athletes maintain good academic records in order to insure continued eligibility. For students now completing their second year, this means that they must earn 24 credit hours during each academic year. A newly enacted rule, effective 1986, will make entering freshmen with SAT scores less than 700 ineligible for athletic competition during their freshman year. This rule would affect 16 of the 30 football players admitted in 1982.

During the last two years, the athletic department has found it necessary to recruit a large number of athletes who could not meet the normal admissions standards. Admission for these athletes is sought directly from the President under his discretionary admission powers. In 1981, sixteen of 55 athletes receiving scholarships (10 in football), and in 1982, ten of 69 (9 in football) were admitted in this manner - athletes amounting to somewhat less than half of all presidential admissions. This group of students have the poorest academic qualifications of any group in the university, comparing unfavorably, for example, with students in the Opportunity Scholars Program in predicted academic performance. They require remedial work in basic language and mathematics before they can cope with most university-level courses. The Athletic Department strives to give these students remedial work during the first year which would enable them to aim at completion of graduation requirements after 5 years. Scholarship support is generally offered as long as students are making reasonable progress toward a degree. It must be expected that students in this category, who already have a heavy commitment to athletic practice, will be subject to increased pressure to maintain athletic eligibility when the necessary remedial work is not available for academic credit. In this connection it is worth noting that Coach Morrison has reaffirmed to the committee his intention of recruiting academically qualified

athletes in the future. There is some early evidence that the number seeking presidential admission will be diminished, though not to zero, in the Fall of 1983.

In view of the pressures on student athletes described above, and in view of improprieties connected with the offering of remedial courses in basic skills for grade point credit under the designation EDPY 399, first brought to the attention of the committee in February, a refinement of our procedures for monitoring the academic status of new and continuing athletes has been initiated. In addition to regular reports of grade point ratios and other academic data, we will attempt to make a thorough study of the distribution of courses chosen by athletes. We have also planned an in-depth study of a particular group of athletes, followed through their entire academic careers.

A report on the effects of the offering of EDPY 399 on the academic status and eligibility of athletes is being submitted separately.

Finally, the faculty senate should be informed that the chairman of the committee was not notified of or invited to any of the meetings of the Intercollegiate Activities Committee of the Board of Trustees, and consequently he did not attend any of these meetings as the Faculty Manual specifies that he should.

James M. Knight
Physics and Astronomy
Chairman

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