

**University Athletics Advisory Committee (UAAC)
Annual Report 2005-2006**

The University of South Carolina Athletic Advisory Committee (UAAC) addressed a number of issues during 2005-2006. As explained in the Faculty Manual description of the committee and further described in the remainder of this report, the committee reviews and monitors admissions decisions and the academic performance of all student-athletes. It regularly receives appropriate and relevant information regarding the academic eligibility and progress of student-athletes, including graduation rates. The committee also receives and reviews reports on annual inter-collegiate athletic program schedules and major changes to them; the annual budget of the Athletics Department; admissions decisions for athletes receiving grants-in-aid; NCAA certification reports, including Title IX reports; major requests for waiver of any institutional athletic policies; major changes in Athletics Department personnel (specifically the director of athletics, director of the academic support unit, and head coaches for each sport); the needs, interests, and concerns of student athletes; all other issues regarding inter-collegiate activities as referred to it by University officials. The committee advises, as appropriate, the Faculty Senate, the NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR), the president, the director of athletics, and the Board of Trustees on all matters under its consideration. In addition to addressing these and other topics during 2005-2006, Kent Demars, Men's Head Tennis Coach, met with the committee and discussed issues impacting their athletes and the academic environment of those student athletes.

During the September meeting, Eric Hyman, USC Athletics Director, led an in-depth discussion of the revised USC drug testing program. Dr. Rod Walters provided background description of testing procedures and reports of compliance. Russ Pate, Faculty Athletic Representative, presented an overview of special admission policies and procedures, as well as a description of special admit student performance.

As part of the UAAC October meeting, Harold White, Senior Associate Athletics Director, reviewed the Department's academic and student services, including all resources used to support the academic environment of USC student athletes. Future plans include substantial strengthening of the overall program of support including facilities and technology. UAAC also began the committee's review of the Coalition of Intercollegiate Athletics' document entitled "Academic Integrity in Intercollegiate Athletics: Principles, Rules, and Best Practices". During the meeting, issues associated with the first two sections (i.e., "Admissions" and "Scholarships") were discussed. The consensus of the Athletics Advisory Committee was that the University and the USC Department of Athletics' procedures are generally consistent with the recommendations of the COIA regarding athlete admissions. Issues related to scholarships were also reviewed. The Athletics Department is currently evaluating all policies including issues related to the granting and termination of scholarships.

In November, Kent Demars, Head Men's Tennis Coach, summarized the outstanding athletic and academic success of his athletes and teams. Coach Demars also raised issues regarding the importance of freshman academic success (i.e., the start of

each athlete's academic career) and the value of obtaining faculty feedback regarding grades and class attendance when requested by the Athletic Academic Support group. The possibility of athletic personnel and/or representation from the UAAC participating in the new faculty orientation held at the beginning of each Fall semester was noted as well. The Athletic Director planned to coordinate this request with the Provost Office. The third section of the COIA document entitled "Curriculum Integrity" was also reviewed by the committee. The consensus from this discussion indicated that USC Athletic practices are consistent with COIA recommendations regarding (1) the instruction of athletes by coaches and (2) the award of academic credit for athletic participation. The possibility of instituting Athletic Department policies regarding the instruction of athletes by coaches and other athletic-involved individuals was raised. In terms of academic integrity and class content (i.e., enrollment in specific classes) and grade distributions for student athletes, the decision was made to further the discussion of these issues in the Spring semester and to begin that discussion with a review of academic major concentration/enrollments across the various athletic teams. This information will be presented to UAAC in our February meeting.

During the January 2006 meeting, Harold White, Senior Athletics Director for Academics and Student Services, presented a summary of student athlete enrollments across University colleges and departments. These data revealed a wide distribution of student athletes across academic majors. Procedures were also reviewed regarding grade and class attendance records provided by the faculty. The advantages of faculty participation in reporting student performance and the usefulness of "student-athlete grade reports" were emphasized by the Associate Athletics Director. Preliminary information regarding athletic team Academic Performance rates and Graduation Rates for USC athletic teams were described by Val Sheley, Senior Associate Athletics Director and Senior Women's Administrator. This report revealed that all teams are progressing satisfactorily. Considerable discussion was allocated to the new NCAA requirements regarding the importance of academic eligibility and retention rates. Updated NCAA national reports will be reviewed by UAAC during one of our remaining meetings as information is made available. Other topics covered included the rescheduled 2006 home Auburn football game and the need for UAAC to review the Departmental budget during our April meeting, athletic schedule effects on class attendance, and the remaining two sections of the COIA document, as well as the response of the COIA to the Presidential Task Force.

The University Athletics Advisory Committee also met Tuesday, March 14th. During the meeting, the following issues were reviewed. First, the committee decided to offer a statement of support during the April 2006 Faculty Senate meeting regarding the need for the University to substantially improve the academic enrichment center and overall academic support for USC student athletes. Next, Val Sheley, Associate Athletic Director and Senior Women's Administrator, summarized the recent public NCAA Division I 2004-2005 Academic Progress Rate (APR) Report. These data revealed all USC sports performed satisfactorily based upon the 2004-2005 academic performance of our University's student athletes. Efforts are being made to improve the five sports that were low in terms of APR scores relative to the expected cutoff scores being used by the

NCAA. Second, summary APR information was provided for all SEC team sports. This summary data revealed that 97.45 percent of the 235 SEC teams were above the 925 NCAA APR target score and only six SEC teams (and none of USC's teams) were subject to a contemporaneous penalty.

In addition, Val Sheley summarized the 2004-2005 US Department of Education (EADA) document which reports the numbers of athletes involved across the different USC teams and the operating expenses for each team, as well as the number of assistant and head coaches involved. Data on total revenues and expenses, as well coaches' salaries, were also included. This information, available on the US Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education website, addresses issues related to gender equity as required by the University Athletic Advisory Committee description in the *University of South Carolina Faculty Manual*.

Russ Pate, USC's Faculty Athletic Representative, presented a summary of missed class days for the academic year 2005-2006. (Comparison data for the previous year was provided as well.) For fourteen of seventeen USC varsity sports, missed class days were ten percent or less. These missed class estimates were also described as comparing favorably with similar figures for most other SEC schools. Lastly, the fourth section of the COIA document entitled "Time Commitment, Missed Class Time, and Scheduling of Competitions" was considered. Concerns regarding the effects of missed classes by student athletes were again noted, and the impact of weekday football games on campus-wide activities and schedules was also discussed. The role of student athlete performance as a part of coach evaluations was discussed briefly as well.

Finally, and at the May 25, 2006 meeting, the committee elected Augie Grant, Journalism, to serve as the UAAC Chair for 2006-2007, and welcomed new members, Jim Augustine, Medical School, and Manton Matthews, Computer Science and Civil Engineering. In addition, Jeff Tallent, CFO of the Athletic Department, and Val Sheley reviewed the 2007-2008 departmental budget as required by the UAAC Faculty Manual committee description.

Submitted by William O. Bearden, Chair of UAAC, May 26, 2006.

UAAC Members, 2005-2006

Elected

Geoff Alpert, Criminal Justice
 William O. Bearden, Marketing
 Mathew Bernthal, Sports Management
 Catherine Castner, Language, Lit., and Culture
 Pamela Melton, Law School
 Gary Miller, Educational Studies

Appointed

Art Bahnmuller, Board of Trustees
 Tara Brothers, Student, Pres. Student Athletic Advisory Comm.
 Eric Hyman, Athletic Director

Kristen Hughes, Student
Augie Grant, Journalism
Martha McConnell, Graduate Student
Russ Pate, Faculty Athletic Representative
Dennis Pruitt, Student and Alumni Services
Val Sheley, Associate Athletic Director
Harold White, Associate Athletic Director