

## **University Athletics Advisory Committee (UAAC) Annual Report, 2003-2004**

The University Athletics Advisory Committee (UAAC) for 2003-4 consisted of the following:

Elected faculty members: Robert V. Williams, Chair (Library and Info. Science)

Edward T. Aylward, (Languages and Literature)

Dorothy Disterheft (English)

George Holmes (Medicine)

Venkat Lakshimi (Geology)

Jean Ann Linney (Psychology)

Appointed members: Mike McGee (University Athletics Dir.)

Russ Pate (University Faculty Athletics Representative)

Dennis Pruitt (Student and Alumni Services)

Arthur Bahnmuller (Board of Trustees)

Lir Derieg (Student Athletics Advisory Comm.)

Issues considered by the UAAC in this year were:

- Student absence policy
- Faculty complaint on football games schedule changes
- National developments on faculty involvement in athletics governance
- Changes in the official charge of the UAAC
- Support by the Athletics Department of the University scholarship fund
- Other issues

The UAAC met almost every month of the academic year and attendance by members was usually good. Invited members of the Athletics Department were also usually in attendance, including Tom Perry, Director, Academic Support Unit; Laurie Massa, Associate Athletics Director; Marlynn Jones, Director of Compliance. Members of the press attended most meetings.

### **Student Absence Policy Issue:**

During the 2002-3 academic year, the UAAC devoted considerable discussion to the issue of a student absence policy that gave greater flexibility in the number of excused absences for all students. Two motions were presented to the Faculty Senate in early 2003 but both were defeated. Given the importance of this issue to student athletes, the 2003-4UAAC again asked the Scholastic Standards and Petitions Comm. to review the issue and make a recommendation to the Senate but they declined to do so. After discussion, the UAAC decided that it would continue reviewing the issue and present a different recommendation at a later date.

### **Faculty Complaint on Football Games Schedule Changes:**

At a meeting of the Faculty Senate in Fall, 2003, a complaint was made by a faculty member about changes in the football schedule that resulted in two Thursday night football games being scheduled, one of them during midterm exams. The complaint was also made by letter to the President. Both the Senate and the President referred this matter to the UAAC for review and advice. The UAAC made the following report to the Senate:

The Committee has considered the matter and, in the view of the fact that there is no officially designated midterm exam period at the University, we believe there is no basis for action by the Committee regarding scheduling issues in any sport.

However, this specific complaint did raise at least two other issues that we feel need to be considered by the President and the Faculty Senate:

1. In the future, there should be a specific process for consultation with faculty in determining last minute changes in schedules for sports events, particularly large student attendance sporting events, such as football.
2. While there is a designated period of time during final exams when sporting events are not scheduled, it may be desirable to designate a similar time for midterm exams. It was noted, however, that this could cause serious problems in inter-collegiate sporting events scheduling because of major differences in academic schedules for midterm exams.

#### **National Developments on Faculty Involvement in Athletics Governance Issue:**

The Chair of the Senate asked the UAAC to become familiar with developments in the national movement to reform intercollegiate athletics (particularly as they applied to the work of faculty senates and athletics advisory committees) and to recommend whether the University should officially join in this movement. The UAAC devoted considerable time and effort to this task throughout the year, reviewing documents, discussing the issue with Jim Augustine, who attended the national meeting of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA), and considering whether the current charge to the committee was in conformity to similar committees at other universities. The UAAC recommended to the Senate that USC officially join in this effort and that Jim Augustine be the official representative to COIA. Both recommendations were accepted by the Senate and USC now has official membership in COIA. Documents relevant to the COIA, athletics reform, and the work of faculty senates and athletics advisory committees appears on the Faculty Senate Web page at: <http://www.sc.edu/faculty/reform.shtml>

#### **Changes in the Official Charge of the UAAC:**

The discussions regarding athletics reform led to extensive discussions regarding the current charge to the UAAC. The current charge is:

The committee shall consider those issues concerning the athletics policies that the Student Senate, Faculty Senate, director of athletics, president, or the Board of Trustees refer to it. The chair shall communicate the committee's recommendations to the President and the organization or group that submitted the issue. The committee shall monitor the academic performance of all student-athletes. The chair shall obtain

appropriate and relevant information regarding the academic eligibility and progress of student-athletes.

Membership of the committee shall be six elected faculty members; three student members, (one undergraduate student-athlete who served as either president or president-elect of the Student Athletics Advisory Committee; one undergraduate student appointed by the president of the student body; and one graduate student appointed by the student government with the consent of the Association of Graduate Students); one member of the Intercollegiate Activities Committee of the Board of Trustees appointed by the chair of that committee; and four presidential appointees (one at-large representative from the faculty, the staff, or the administration; the NCAA faculty athletics representative; one representative from the Division of Student Affairs; and the director of athletics). The chair shall be a member of the faculty. The chair and the NCAA faculty athletics representative shall sit with the Intercollegiate Activities Committee at its meetings, ex officio.

After extensive review, the UAAC decided that this charge was not adequate to the task of managing substantive review and change in faculty governance of athletics. The following charge was proposed to the Faculty Advisory Comm., which approved it for consideration and vote at the Sept. 1, 2004 General Faculty meeting:

The committee shall review and monitor admissions decisions and the academic performance of all student-athletes by regularly receiving appropriate and relevant information regarding the academic eligibility and progress of student-athletes, including graduation rates. The committee also receives reports on, reviews and advises, as appropriate, the Faculty Senate, the NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR), the President, the Director of Athletics, and the Board of Trustees on the following: annual inter-collegiate athletic program schedules and major changes to them; the annual budget of the Athletics Dept.; admissions decisions for athletes receiving grants-in-aid; 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 shall make at least an annual, written report of its activities to the Faculty Senate, the President, and the Director of Athletics.

Membership of the committee shall be six elected faculty members; three student members, (one undergraduate student-athlete who serves as either president or president-elect of the Student Athletics Advisory Committee; one undergraduate student appointed by the president of the student body; and one graduate student appointed by the student government with the consent of the Association of Graduate Students); one member of the Intercollegiate Activities Committee of the Board of Trustees appointed by the chair of that committee; and four presidential appointees (one at-large representative from the faculty; the NCAA faculty athletics representative (FAR); one representative from the Division of Student Affairs; and the Director of Athletics). The chair shall be a member of the faculty. The chair and the NCAA faculty athletics representative (FAR) shall sit with the Intercollegiate Activities Committee at its meetings, ex officio.

**Support by the Athletics Dept. of the University Scholarship Fund:**

The Faculty Senate Budget Committee asked the UAAC to advise on a request it had made to the Athletics Department for additional monetary support of the general scholarship fund of the University. A specific proposal was made by the Budget Committee to tax, or add a charge, on community admissions to all community events, that could yield about \$979,000 in the first year. After discussion of this request at a meeting of the UAAC a recommendation was passed “that the Athletics Department be requested to increase, at their discretion, their contribution to the general scholarship fund of the University; and, that other auxiliary/revenue generating units should be requested to also support the general scholarship fund of the University.” This recommendation was forwarded to the Faculty Senate Budget Committee for follow-up with the Athletics Department.

**Other Issues:**

The UAAC regularly received reports from the Director of Athletics, Director of the Academic Support Unit of the Athletics Department, the Associate Director of Athletics (including a review of the certification report to the NCAA and the gender equity report to the NCAA), the Director of Compliance, and the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), Russ Pate. Reports were also received (and heard in executive session) regarding the potential of an NCAA investigation regarding possible recruiting violations, new building plans for athletics facilities, and related issues. The Director of the Academic Support Unit gave regular reports on the academic performance of students by sport, the general work of the unit, and the number of students that had not met eligibility requirements in the previous academic year. The FAR also made a separate report to a meeting of the Faculty Senate.