

UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT, ACADEMIC YEAR 1993-1994

The University Athletics Advisory Committee met monthly, September 1993 - May 1994. In October, President Palms met with the committee to give it his charge. Committee membership changes included the appointment of David Didion, USC NCAA compliance officer, as a presidential appointment to a vacancy and the designation of Char Davis as interim representative of the Division of Student Affairs during the absence of Dennis Pruitt. At the invitation of the committee the Athletic Department Senior Womens Administrator Laurie Massa and Coach Harold White, Director of the Athletics Department academic support programs were usually in attendance.

Within the scope of the committee's mandated activities, during the course of the year, the committee:

1. Reviewed the Summer Session 1993 academic reports on student athletes; the Fall 1993 academic reports on student athletes; the Spring 1994 academic reports on student athletes.

2. Reviewed and made recommendations as to the position to be adopted by USC on pending SEC and NCAA legislation.

3. Met with and reviewed the programs of the head coaches of Football, Mens Basketball, Womens Basketball, and Volleyball.

4. Received and discussed information provided by the Athletics Director, a member of the committee, and the USC SEC/NCAA Faculty Representative, also a member of the committee about matters and issues falling within the purview of the committee including gender equity, facilities planning, implications of the new NCAA academic requirements, establishment of the NCAA certification process, and quality of student life programs for student athletes.

5. Received a report on the reorganization of the Athletics Department academic support program. In a follow-up to this, the committee held its March 1994 meeting in the Academic Enrichment Center where it is full briefed by the Center's staff on the activities carried out there.

6. In November, the committee invited the co-chairs of the USC Student Athletes Committee to exchange views. During the course of the year, the committee developed a proposal to add the chair of the USC Student Athletes Committee to membership on the University Athletics Advisory Committee. This proposal was forwarded through President Palms to the Board of Trustees and was accepted.

7. Directed letters of congratulations to student athletes and coaches where particular merit was involved.

8. In the framework of the continuing problem of the lack of a level academic playing field in the SEC, the committee studied and made a recommendation to the Standards and Petitions Committee with respect to limited transferability of "D" grades after 42 hours of "C" work. This was not accepted. The committee recognizes that the academic requirements for student athletes at USC are among the most stringent in the SEC, contrary to popular perception.

9. Elected Dr. James Hightower as the 1994-95 Chair.

10. The Chairman of the University Athletics Committee:

a. Attended meetings of the Board of Trustees Intercollegiate Activities Committee. A future joint meeting of the two committees has been suggested.

b. Participated in the deliberations of the President's advisory committee on special admissions.

c. Withdrew from the PE Center advisory committee since the items of that committee's agenda did not come within the scope of the University Athletics Advisory Committee.

The work of the Committee during the year was facilitated by the cooperation of the Athletics Department under the leadership of AD Mike McGee; the Registrar's Office, in particular Barbara Blaney who formats the academic reports; and the Office of Media Relations, particularly Debra Allen who guides the committee through the FOI morass. Dr. Sandra Robinson, SEC/NCAA Faculty Representative led the committee through the regulatory maze that now surrounds athletic programs.

Donald E. Weatherbee
Chair