

Senate Committee on Athletic Policy: Academic Year 2011-2012
Report of Work Accomplished

Committee Members: Marc Donabella, Mark Glauser, Martha Hanson, John Stegman, Kathleen Hinchman, Gwen Judge, John Russell, Joe Lore, Don Siegel (Chair), Janet Wilmoth, Anne Hensberry,, Marc Glauser, Eleanor Ware, Nancy Cantor (ex officio), Daryl Gross (ex officio), Mike Wasylenko (ex officio). Also attending: Jamie Mullin

By-Laws: The committee shall be concerned with the impact of University as well as Athletic Department policies and practices on the well-being and progress of students who are athletes. Consideration shall be given to admissions, advising, and comparisons of graduation rates with other institutions, placement after graduation, and other topics that the committee deems important. The committee shall recommend changes in policy where appropriate:

Guiding Principles (from 2002-2003):

1. SCAP shall facilitate the dissemination of “objective” information related to the well being of student athletes as a group.
2. SCAP should provide a “picture” or the “lay of the land” for the Senate. How do the various components and activities of the University affect student-athletes and the reverse? How do the policies of the University affect student-athletes? How do Athletic Department policies affect student athletes?
3. SCAP should provide “early warnings” of emerging issues and spur discussion among the relevant groups.
4. SCAP should improve the quality of discussion about the role of athletics and student-athletes at Syracuse University.
5. SCAP should specify, to the extent possible, the data and reports that will be routinely presented to the Senate. Data should be comparable from year to year.
6. SCAP’s data and reports should help the Senate and the larger community to be well informed.

The following is a report of Athletics-related information reviewed by SCAP during the past year in response to its charges, above. Academic year 2011-2012 was a difficult one for the Athletics Department because of a number of externalities (e.g. Coach Bernie Fine’s circumstances and late minute decisions on academic eligibility) that unfortunately and necessarily led to some cancelled prior-scheduled meetings between the SCAP Committee and Athletic Department staff. Yet, the committee felt that through it all, the student-athletic body was not adversely affected financially, athletically, or academically, in part because of their degree of maturity to understand circumstances and the care taken by their coaches and staff to insure they they not be adversely affected. This committee partnered with the Women’s Concerns Committee in Dec 2011 on the attached statement on sexual abuse.

Athletic Department General Information. (Jamie Mullin, Associate Director Athletics; Deputy Director of Athletics, Herman Frazier)

Mullin and Frazier spoke largely about the impact of SU joining the Atlantic Coastal Conference. Syracuse decided to join the ACC because academically it aligned the institution with other institutions that have a similar profile and athletically it provided the University with increased television revenue and access to a more prestigious conference. There seems to be an evolving NCAA athletic trend that only 6-8 large athletic conferences will be viable in the future. This future situation makes it paramount that SU participate in full if the institution wishes to be part of National level competition in athletics. The television revenue is needed to both maintain the competitiveness of revenue-earning sports as well as that of other non-revenue sports. Almost all

SU sports programs now compete at high levels and are National Competitive. Joining the ACC also enhances recruiting opportunities throughout the southeastern states.

With respect to travel, making the change to the ACC only amounts to about one-hundred miles more travel for student-athletes during the course of a season. Finally, both academic and sports credentials line up better with ACC institutions than with institutions now in the Big East after Pittsburgh, Boston College and other schools left the conference.

Admissions Steven O'Keefe, Associate Director Admissions

O'Keefe indicated that during the prior year, SU had close to 100% early decision acceptances on student athletes. Coaches are getting better on screening student athletes. SU has not yet seen a downturn in 18-year old applications, but it is anticipated. SU now aggressively is recruiting across the country and overseas for students, including student athletes. SU Abroad programs are involved in this initiative, as well as agreements with junior colleges in the northeast, California and Georgia. SU is tightening up reviewing students who might have had academic and disciplinary infractions in high school or junior college to avoid similar situations here, once they are admitted. New NCAA legislation is pending to allow coaches to contact student-athletes much earlier in high school, perhaps extending to the sophomore year.

Faculty Oversight Committee for Athletics and implementation of the Advising Task Force's Recommendations. Michael Wasylenko once again reported that a group of 6 faculty members monitors academics of student athletes and their progress and does exit interviews. Handles transfer issues. For example, if an athlete wishes to transfer and is denied, oversight committee handles the appeal and makes the decision. Committee reviews transcripts twice a year, paying attention to frequency of independent studies, experience credits and internship credits

Academic Support and Progress Monitoring. Kevin Wall, Director of Student-Athlete Support Services.

Kevin Wall's office helps student athletes develop NCAA life skills, and includes career development and community outreach. His office also helps students with their academic program and advising. Wall discussed with the committee how the APR threshold for teams has been raised from 925 to 930 and details on how it is calculated. Although the APR has been tightened, student-athletes can now transfer credits from other institutions, allowing more opportunities for student-athletes who left prior to graduation to ultimately earn their degree. Former student athletes take advantage of this now, and in the process, SU regains APR points. In the future, the NCAA may allow multiple year athletic scholarships rather than year-by-year renewals. The NCAA also has tightened up the number of core courses student-athletes need to take prior to college admission to sixteen.

Academic Athletic and Facilities Management Update. Peter Sala, Senior Associate Director of Athletics, Managing Director of the Carrier Dome

Sala discussed issues related to the athletic budget and facilities as they pertain to the welfare of student athletes, and did not present an overview on the Athletic Department budget (not the task of this committee). Revenues this past year were good from non-university-related performances from which SU does pay taxes. The "Monster Truck" event in particular brought in people who never have seen SU before. But hosting non-SU events has become difficult because there are five SU sports tenants that use the Carrier Dome. The City Fire and Police Departments also used the Dome for events. External income from these external events supports the facilities for additional use by students.

All football meeting rooms at Manley Field House have been remodeled, including smart boards and similar technology to improve student-athlete learning. The Board of Trustees has approved remodeling football locker-room, to be refurbished similar to the that found in the Carmelo Anthony Center, including a larger lounge and larger cafeteria. Training rooms have also been upgraded. In short, there will be twice the footage in the Stevenson facility for education and academics.

Time management for students remains a problem with respect to facilities. Once Manley is refurbished, there should be less down-time traveling. Much of the renovation is to enhance academics by minimizing time to travel and consolidate facilities.

Conclusion. The Athletics Department continues to work toward collaborating with Academic Affairs to make sure that student-athletes continue to receive all the support they need for academic success within the guidelines provided by the NCAA. The Department has staffed teams with successful coaches, and facility upgrades continue to improve the student-athlete experience at SU. The Athletic Budget continues to provide necessary support for the athletic programs with the following exception. We think the Administration should consider providing more medical, learning, and conditioning staff to insure student-athletes get both the best athletic and educational experience they can. There is a clear need for providing these additional services

SCAP continues to monitor the preceding, as well as Title IX issues. Senators are encouraged to contact this committee with concerns about the policies and practices associated with these activities so that SCAP can address concerns as it completes its work this year.

Attachment 1

Women's Concerns Committee of the University Senate

Committee on Athletic Policy of the University Senate

Statement on Sexual Abuse and our Community

12/07/2011

In keeping with Chancellor Cantor's statement that Syracuse University does not tolerate abuse on its campus, the Women's Concerns Committee and the Committee on Athletic Policy of the University Senate support the rights of individuals on campus and in our community to speak out about sexual abuse without fear of being silenced.

We believe it is extremely important right now to show support and concern for individuals who have been targeted by abuse, provide information and resources both on campus and in the community, help our community members understand the kinds of statements and language that can silence victims of crimes of violence and create additional harm, and acknowledge that all of our community members are affected by these allegations and in need of assistance and support.

On campus resources for assistance include:

Advocacy Center - 443-7273

Counseling Center - 443-4715

Faculty and Staff Assistance Program - 443-1087

Hendricks Chapel - 443-2901

Off campus resources for assistance include:

Child Abuse Reporting Center - 1-800-342-3720

Sexual Abuse Hotline - 1-800-656-4673

Vera House - 468-3260

We need to talk about how we, as a campus community, will open up a dialogue about sexual abuse and make sure the dialogue continues after the Bernie Fine case is no longer in the news.

We strongly encourage our community to think about the language that we use and the way that we address these issues to make sure we are talking about the needs of survivors of abuse and ways to create a safe and fair workplace and community environment. We believe that this is the right time to engage more members of our community in conversations about addressing and preventing sexual abuse.

Therefore:

- 1) We ask that the university acknowledge the impact of the sexual abuse allegations on the entire university community.
- 2) We ask that the university distribute information on how to talk about, prevent, and address sexual abuse and suggest resources on campus available to assist supervisors, managers, Deans, Department Chairs and Program Directors in preparing for these conversations and encourage these conversations to take place.
- 3) We ask that the University community commit to creating itself as a “community of empowered bystanders”—individuals who:
 - If witness to potentially harmful behavior, take action that has the potential to lead to a positive outcome.
 - Speak up about abusive behavior and/or support individuals who have been abused.
 - Realize the opportunities, options, and impact they can have in preventing sexual abuse, bullying, and other bias related behaviors.
 - Become “empowered” as the result of reflecting upon our University’s values and committing to taking action—collectively ensuring that Syracuse University remains a safe place for every campus community member.

Respectfully submitted,

The Syracuse University Senate Committee on Women's Concerns

The Syracuse University Senate Committee on Athletic Policy