

**Report of Senate Committee on Athletic Policy:
Academic Year 2012-2013**

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9October 2013

Committee Members: Christine L. Himes, Horace Campbell, Marc Donabella, Anne M. Hensberry, Donald I Siegel (Chair), Gwenn B Judge, James Kallmerten, Janet M Wilmoth, John Mitchell Laverty, John M. Russell, Joseph Dominick Lore, Mark N Glauser, Martha Jo Hanson, Michael J Wasylenko 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.

Renee Mack Baumgartner (Deputy Athletics Director and Chief of Staff) reported that this year will be a transition year for SU athletics since we will begin athletic competitions in the ACC. Almost all our teams are nationally competitive and SU placed 39th in the Learfield Sports Directors' Cup awarded annually to the nation's best overall collegiate athletics programs (attached). New locker rooms and hall of fame area were refurbished for football at Manley and efforts are being made to enhance locker room facilities for other sports in line with what other schools in our new league have.

Kevin Wall (Director of Student-Athlete Support Services) discussed broader issues related to the mission of SCAP regarding student athletic policies, reviewing formal policies a collaborative way. For example, SCAP might review current travel policy, drug policy, and locker room and conditioning room access policies. SCAP in the future might also revisit NCAA policies with respect to math and language requirements in the context of what leagues and individual schools demand. Another issue might be exploring attendance policies for athletes to insure academic success in classes.

We obtained information on academic majors for student athletes and note that athletes broadly can be found in multiple colleges much like the overall student body (attachment).

The NCAA holds Division I institutions accountable for the academic progress of their student-athletes through the APR (Academic Progress Rate), a team-based metric that accounts for the eligibility and retention of each student-athlete, each term. As reported on the NCAA website for this measure

(<http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/NCAA/Academics/Division+I/Academic+Progress+Rate>), "Beginning with 2012-13 championships, teams must earn a minimum 900 four-year APR or a 930 average over the most recent two years to be eligible to participate. For 2014-15 championships, teams must earn a 930 four-year average APR or a 940 average over the most recent two years to participate in championships. In 2015-16 and beyond, teams must earn a four-year APR of 930 to compete in championships."

SU athletics compared SU's team APR scores with those in the ACC (attached), and with the exception of men's soccer and basketball, all teams are doing well. Athletics anticipates the APR for basketball and soccer will rise in the future, and recognizes the stronger academics needed for success in our new league. 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.

A comparison of graduate rate from SU and ACC teams from 2002-2005 (attached) shows our team graduate rates are equal or higher than the average in the league except for basketball where loss of students early to professional teams prior to graduation remains a persistent threat to these measures of success. GPA scores of student athletes aggregated by teams appears consistent with the other measures mentioned and points to broad success of our athletic programs in graduating out student-athletes.

Peter Sala, Senior Associate Director of Athletics, Managing Director of the Carrier Dome discussed remodeling training rooms and locker rooms for the football facility, pointing out the last time this was done was in the 1980's. Outside lighting of playing fields needs to be upgraded also and there remain scheduling problems to include time for all the sports desiring play and practice in the Dome and Manley.

Last year's "Midnight Madness" problems arose out of free tickets provided by Galaxy Media which paid for the entertainment. This problem can be corrected in the future by not having a similar arrangement.

Conclusion. As we reported last year, 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.

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

3.

activities so that SCAP can address concerns as it completes its work this year. SCAP will begin, however, this year to focus on particular identified policy questions to provide more focus input to enhance student-athlete experiences at SU.

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

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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