Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Meeting
University Faculty Senate

October 22, 2013, 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.
502 Keller Building

Attending: John Boehmer, Linda Caldwell, Renee Borromeo, Ryan Belz, Julie Del Giorno, Charmelle Green, David Han, Ben Hickerson, Russell Mushinsky, Robert Pangborn, Robert Ricketts, Michael Ridenour, Tramble Turner

Absent: David Joyner, Arianna Lantz, Panagiotis Michaelis, John Nichols, Thomas Poole, David Saxe

Visitor: Preston Gall, Penn State Student Athlete

I. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

II. Minutes from September 10, 2013 were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. News items

The new home for the men’s and women’s ice hockey teams, Pegula Arena, opened successfully on October 11, 2013

Russ Mushinsky reported that the new athletics graduation rate data will be made public on Thursday, October 24 and will be prepared for a December report. Grad rate = 88%, 77% 4-year rate.

IV. Review of team schedules: Baseball, M/W lacrosse, softball, M/W outdoor track & field, M Volleyball

Only one request for exception: M/W track. Charter for the intercollegiate athletics committee allows exceptions. Motion to approve, seconded, all in favor (all schedules).

FAR will continue to check future scheduling in the context of the entire B1G. FAR will vote against plans that impact too many study days (> 3). Committee only approves local scheduling issues.

V. Update from the Committee on Campus Athletics

Update on campus athletics committees: 1) Revising proposal for 8-day rule since campus instruction time varies in comparison to UP (when count time starts especially later in the afternoon). 2) Modification of faculty athletic report to be presented to IAC committee.
VI. Update from Big 10/NCAA Governance

B1G meeting Oct. 7/8 with major discussions about restructuring of NCAA. Possibility of BCS/5 conferences joining together to self-govern and make better opportunities available for student athletes. Student Athlete Opportunity Funds are governed by NCAA, but universities want to use these discretionarily. Next discussion of the topic will occur at the NCAA convention in January.

VII. Update on Faculty Partner’s Program

The Faculty Partners Program is active. Trainings (included covered persons) will be occurring in the next few weeks. Once training is complete the FPP will be more active. 17 partners (22 total teams: track and field = 6 teams).

VIII. Update on the safety of the medical care of student athletes

Physician care of student athletes has been adjusted within the university. Concussions are being considered heavily and meetings will continue to improve monitoring and care. There will be further considerations of equity between sports (location/timing) for availability of doctors (on site, other locations, etc.). The Center for Concussion Studies in KINES is working with data from the university.

IX. Senate Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics self-study

A self-study will be commissioned to consider the following: Determining current responsibilities (schedules, etc.), possible responsibilities (reviewing the athletic budget). Determining positioning within governance structure and thinking about the other parties with charges associated with intercollegiate athletics.

Two issues were presented: Bob Ricketts: Some coaches are instructors (part-time) and when they are released, the courses are vacated. Tram Turner: Considering the budget in the context of a self-sustaining athletics department. May be different where general fund is used for athletics (other universities).

X. Review of the Rawlings Panel on Intercollegiate Athletics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
   a. Review recommendations of 1-9

Julie Del Giorno noted that this report was written by independent parties hired by UNC (not UNC officials).

Committee will loop back and address specific policies/procedures associated with items. We should communicate this benchmarking to larger bodies within the institution (faculty senate, etc.).
The committee will pursue further consideration of policies associated with #4 (no donors with “strings attached”). Nittany Lion Club must work with the university development office AND report to athletics (since it is solely associated with athletics).

At Penn State coaches can have no undue influence on athletic advisors. Academic integrity agreement states this explicitly. Although coaches have some involvement in the hiring and retention process of athletic advisors.

Rob Pangborn: Presidential omit and reserved spaces are available for students with special talents (e.g., music and athletics); the ARSSA committee covers this area. If an athlete wants to participate in a sport only offered at UP and meets other campus requirements they can be admitted. Reserved spaces are only available in fall semester, but many students are now coming during the summer (where relaxed admissions were often applied). Needs to be considered.

XI. Discussion of potential guidelines for student-athlete time away from campus for athletic competition during summer sessions.
   a. Tabled for the following meeting.

XII. Presentation on the General Fiscal Health of the Athletics Department

Penn State athletics information can be found on the Department of Education website under the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act. Budgetary data is also included in the NCAA revenues and expenses report. David Joyner will be able to provide more localized data at a future meeting.

XIII. Motion to adjourn seconded and approved unanimously: 9:31a.m.

Minutes submitted by John Boehmer, Committee Chair