Minutes
Intercollegiate Athletic Committee
Penn State University Faculty Senate
8:00 am, 502 Keller Building
December 9, 2014

Present: Ryan Belz, Renee Borromeo, Linda Caldwell, Benjamin Hickerson, James Kulbicki, Robert Pangborn, Thomas Poole, Chet Ray, Jay Regan, Eric Sims, Tramble Turner

Resource members present: Julie del Giorno, Russell Mushinsky, John Nichols

Absent: John Boehmer, Durga Ghosh, Daniel Perkins

Guests: Rob Cooper (Men’s Baseball Coach), Missy Doherty (Women’s Lacrosse Coach)

1. Welcome by Chair
Meeting was called to order by chair Chet Ray at 8:00 AM.

2. Approval of minutes for the October 21, 2014 meeting
Minutes for Oct. 21 meeting were approved as written.

3. Charmelle Green – Comments on current state of Penn State Athletics

4. Russ Mushinsky – Graduation Rates and academic issues
Russ Mushinsky discussed the three systems used to assess academic progress and graduation rates for student athletes: academic progress rates: current team; graduation rates: federal system and graduation success rates. Packages were distributed with benchmarking data. Notes from the package are listed below.

Federal calculation = This data only includes scholarship student athletes. The process is historical (2007-2008). No accounting for transfers, mid-year admissions.

GSR = scholarship only, incorporates transfers, mid-years and fall admits. If a student leaves with eligibility they are not counted in the GSR.

10 charts included rankings for federal GSR (07-08). Penn State was 4th ranked in the Big 10. 84/109 students in the cohort graduated (15 academically eligible, 8 not, 2 graduated after 6-year period). Cohort size is important for interpretation (for example basketball can be very small). Cohort average is 2nd in the Big 10. For Federal GSR (p. 4), Penn State 2nd in the Big 10 for African-American and female students.

Because of the difference in calculations, GSR scores are generally 5-10% higher. Penn State’s overall GSR ranks second in the Big 10. Rank is not always the best measure for specific teams because of team size (small teams ranking at the top may all have 100%).

National comparison charts: Penn State benchmarks against a number of other schools throughout the nation. Single year rank is 9th. 4-year average rank is 4th. GSR is 7th ranked overall.

Internal information is also considered about the population of PSU student athletes:
Including colleges of enrollment and degrees being earned. This information has been collected every other year since 2006. Few changes from 2012 to 2014. Most heavily enrolled colleges = HHD, DUS, Liberal Arts, Communications, Business. #1 college on campus for general enrollment is engineering. Elsewise colleges of enrollment are very similar to general population. There are students athletes in every college other than school of nursing.

Another consideration is major distribution by team. This metric includes all student-athletes, not just scholarship athletes. This process monitors any team with >20% in a particular major. The only majors with >20% are pre-status (DUS, HHD, COMM: not yet in specific major).

From Charmelle Green: Exit interviews have also been conducted with every student athlete; qualitative data suggest that students are able to choose the majors they want and receive excellent support from the Morgan Center.

5. Linda Caldwell – Discussion of the Big 10 FAR meeting

All FAR in the Big 10 met in early December 2014. NCAA made a presentation to discuss their guidelines for academic misconduct. Currently the information is placed throughout the legislative manual, but the plan is to consolidate this information in one section.

NCAA is planning to require each member university to have a policy on academic misconduct; it will then be up to the university to monitor and legislate what is going on. There is currently a process of soliciting feedback from FAR to further develop these plans.

Award Committees

B10 post graduate-scholarship committee: 1 male, 1 female per institution can win for post-graduate degrees. Committee members have been appointed to make the decision.

6. Introductions of Guest Coaches
- Missy Doherty (Women’s Lacrosse) and Rob Cooper (Baseball)

Doherty: Fifth year as women’s lacrosse coach; graduated from University of Maryland. She feels fortunate to have students with strong academic pedigree. Coaches have frequent discussions with students about proper communications (about what is going on, how to contact people, encouragement, etc.). Scheduling currently works, but may change because the sport is catching on in more regions, which could have an impact on travel. Practice scheduling is the primary difficulty because the facility is shared and only certain practice times can be used.

Cooper: Just finished first season as PSU baseball coach. Started as student-coach at University of Miami. Chose to work at Penn State to join a program that can be successful on the field and in the classroom. An important part in the recruiting process is that the player is comfortable with the program; not just that the program wants the skills of the player. Scheduling for baseball is a built-in hardship. The season begins in February and the team can play 56 games total. Team often drives to Baltimore to fly out (size reasons), which increases trip length. Scheduling often becomes an issue for competitive advantage (including road practice days).

7. Discussion of Division III and PSUAC miss class proposal (Tramble Turner)

Tram Turner gave a short report on the D-III and PSUAC programs at the Commonwealth Campuses. He reported that they are close to having all schedules
approved and posted for all the campuses.

He also discussed some issues for smaller schools with that were brought up at the national level, including: (1) smaller schools have fewer class sections, so student-athletes have more difficulty scheduling around practice and competition times; (2) best practices often involve closer associations with faculty (i.e. Faculty Partners Program); (3) the NCAA needs to improve its description of Division III and the policies, procedure, and guidelines for DIII programs.

For the Penn State campuses, Tram reported that statistical reports like GSR for DI are encouraged at the DIII and PSUAC programs, but staffing could be an issue for this task. He also mentioned the UNC-Greensboro sexual violence awareness training program has been made available to all schools, and it would be useful for PSU to consider using it or one like it. Charmelle said that sexual violence awareness is being addressed in the athletic programs at UP.

Because of the late hour, Chet suggested that we table the discussion of the proposed changes to the 8-day rule for the Commonwealth Campuses. It will be put early on the agenda at the next meeting.

8. New Business
No new business.

9. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn by Tramble Turner.

Minutes submitted by Chester Ray, Committee Chair