ATHLETIC COUNCIL REPORT
2004-05

I. Athletic Council Membership

II. Athletic Council Meetings
Guests: Steve Dilley (UCAG liaison), University Administration: Kathy Lindahl; Departmental Staff: Jennifer Smith, Jim Pignataro, Peggy Brown, Shelley Appelbaum, Mark Hollis, Greg Ianni, Chris Retrievi, Jeff Monroe, Jeff Kovan, and John Lewandowski, and invited coaching staff members and student-athletes. Council Meeting Dates: September 9, October 7, November 18, 2004; January 20, February 17, March 3, and May 5, 2005.

III. Intercollegiate Athletics - Operational Matters
- Varsity Team Schedule Review
  - Missed Class Time Guidelines (sports schedules)
  - Length of Season Constraints
  - Avoidance of Final Exam Conflicts
- MSU Athletic Department Budget Review
  - Reorganization and Changes in Development
  - Review of Scholarship and Operations Funding
  - Gender Equity and Facilities Annual Report
- Student-Athlete Academic Support Services
  - Student-Athlete Surveys/Exit Interviews
  - Smith Academic Center Program Review
  - Life Skills/MSUnity [www.sass.msu.edu]

IV. Intercollegiate Athletics - Academic Matters
  a. NCAA: Academic and Related Matters
    - Satisfactory Progress/Degree Requirement Monitoring
    - Athletic Certification Interim Report Review
    - Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse Operation/Amateurism
    - Gender-Equity in Intercollegiate Athletics (Annual Report)
  b. MSU/NCAA: Graduation Rate Disclosure Reports
    - NCAA graduation report for student body and student-athletes
    - Compliant with the Federal Student Right-to-Know Act (1990)
    - Report submitted by Office Planning & Budgets [IPED/GRDF]
    - Report includes athletes receiving athletically related aid
    - Report covers a six-year graduation rate horizon
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• Average MSU Grad Rate for S-A exhausting eligibility = .89

c. Big Ten Conference: Academic and Related Matters

• Comparative Continuing Eligibility Standards (NCAA/BT/MSU)
• Student-Athlete Welfare Issues (agents/conduct/gender equity)
• Conference Rules Deregulation/Sports Agreements (on-going)

d. MSU: Academic and Related Matters

• Sports Scheduling/Missed Class Time Guideline Implementation
• MSU/NCAA Graduation Rate Disclosure Report Review
• SAAC Committee Meetings: Outcomes and Events
• ATHLINFO System: automated student-athlete monitoring
• MSU Athletic Petition Process/Annual Compliance Report
• NCAA MSU Second Cycle Certification
• Academic Governance Linkage/Representation

V. Highlighted Council Deliberations

a. Prospective Student-Athlete Recruitment Policy

Intent: development and implementation of policies and procedures consistent with NCAA and Big Ten principles governing on- and off-campus activities of prospects during an official MSU visit.

Process: Office of Athletic Compliance, Office of the General Counsel drafted policies and procedures (including oversight and enforcement) for review and support of the Athletic Council.

AC Discussion Points: reviewed NCAA Recruiting Task Force Recommendations and Emergency Legislation related to meals and lodging, student-hosts, transportation, coaching staff, and educational components of official campus visit.

AC Resolution: recommended the implementation of the MSU Student-Athlete Recruitment Policy effective December 1, 2004.

b. NCAA Certification Report and Peer Reviewer Visit

AC Discussion Points: evaluation of DIA conformity of NCAA Operating Principles in areas of governance and rules compliance, academic integrity, and student-athlete welfare (gender and minority equity); also plans for improvement.

AC Resolution: AC reviewed and recommended final report be accepted by the MSU President for submission to the NCAA.

c. Drug Education and Testing (DETC) Policy (revised)
Intent: strengthen MSU’s year-round drug education and testing program to protect the health, safety, and welfare of student-athletes. Educate relative to drug, tobacco, and alcohol use.
Process: DETC committee actions reviewed by Council; Council discussed and sought legal counsel and central administration input; athletic medicine, coaches, and athletes participated.
AC Discussion Points: innovative fluid and tissue collection and testing procedures; false positives and related implications for change; chain of custody and distribution of findings issues.
AC Resolution: supported revised DETC policy document; received support from DIA and SAAC; adopted November 2004.

d. Athletic Council Subcommittee Activities
Academic and Compliance Services: reviews SASS annual academic reports and plans for improved support services; reviews academic accountability programming and NCAA graduation rate data; reviews ‘AthInfo’ student-athlete system; reviews Office of Compliance Services’ annual report.
Planning and Equity: reviews varsity sport gender equity and roster management data; reviews minority equity planning; recommends elevation of club teams for varsity sport status.
Communications and Operations: reviews ticket distribution policies and procedures; recommends DIA individual game and season ticket pricing; analyzes re-seating of athletic venues; reviews construction and enhancement project plans.
Drug Education and Testing Policies: reviews student-athlete policies relative to performance enhancement drugs, alcohol, recreational drugs, and tobacco products; reviews self-referral and reasonable suspicion programs; reviews NCAA guidelines.

Each Athletic Council member is eligible to receive two season football tickets and either two M Basketball or Ice Hockey season tickets at a discounted price, subject to IRS tax rules. Seat premiums are payable in full.

Athletic Council website: msuathleticcouncil.org (established: 1/04)