

SEC Liaison to the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee
Report to the Campus Senate, May 7, 2010

Submitted by
Lynn Fisher

As part of its response to the Final Report by the Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate Intercollegiate Athletics (2009/2010), the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) asked me to work collaboratively with the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee (IAC) and the administration to discuss further work needed on the Report's recommendations. This charge was set out at the March 26 meeting of the Campus Senate.

In response to this charge, I met with the IAC and consulted with Associate Chancellor for Constituent Relations Ed Wojcicki, who was designated by the Chancellor to head up the administration's response to the Report. I also met with Athletic Director Rodger Jehlicka and Faculty Athletic Representative Professor Marcel Yoder, and consulted Professor Barbara Hayler, who chaired the Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate Intercollegiate Athletics. I thank all these individuals and members of the IAC for their willingness to meet at a busy time.

The IAC met on April 12 to identify priorities for immediate action in response to the Report's recommendations and to assess progress already made toward some of the recommendations. The IAC met again on April 29 to follow up on the first of these priorities, and plans to meet once more before the semester ends. Areas singled out for immediate attention by the IAC include: campus governance of athletics and role of the IAC, budget transparency and fiscal responsibility, relationships between Campus Health Services and the Athletic Department, and other matters pertaining to student-athlete welfare. Each touches on one or more of the Report's recommendations. Brief summaries of the work of the committee in each area are below.

Campus governance of athletics and role of the IAC. IAC Bylaws were revised in Fall 2009. Current bylaws define the dual responsibilities of the IAC (1) to the Campus Senate in matters of "academic and educational objectives" and (2) "as an advisory committee to the Chancellor and the Athletic Director on matters of budget and finance, personnel, and operational aspects of the intercollegiate athletics program" (Campus Senate Bylaws, p. 16). The Report of the Investigating Committee emphasized the need for active consultation and regular exchange of information between the IAC and administration [Recommendation #18].

At its April 12 meeting, the IAC reviewed the bylaws and discussed expectations regarding consultation and the need for timely information in order to meaningfully carry out its charge. These discussions were the starting point for work summarized below.

Discussions also touched on communication between athletics and other campus constituents. Student members suggested a variety of ways of increasing awareness and understanding of athletics on campus. Suggestions included Athletics Department events recognizing student-athletes and faculty-day at games.

Budget transparency and fiscal responsibility. The IAC is working with the administration on obtaining budget updates and planning information. The goal is to establish baseline information need for the committee to carry out its duty to "provide advice to the administration on matters relating to the athletics budget" (Senate Bylaws, p. 16). Work of the committee so far included the following:

- FY10 budget update. At its April 12 meeting, the IAC reviewed a FY10 Athletics budget update for March 2010, provided by Wojcicki. He stated that a good process is now in place for creating monthly budget updates and these can be made available to IAC. Discussion centered on student fees. The SGA representative to the IAC expressed concern about reliance on student fees and

requested a comparison of UIS athletic fees with those of other Illinois colleges and universities. Comparative data generated by SGA have been circulated to the IAC for discussion [Recommendation #20: Detailed budget reports]. Data-gathering and discussions will continue in Fall 2010.

- Consultants' report on development/fundraising for athletics. The Chancellor's office provided the IAC with a report from NACDA Consulting. The Chancellor's office also provided planning documents for development efforts and is soliciting IAC input about plans to raise funds to stabilize the athletics budget. Discussion included questions about how these plans will affect UIS' ability to raise funds for other purposes, and the suggestion that the committee consider initiatives to increase visitorship/ticket sales at games [Recommendation #30: Fund-raising plans]. Discussions are on-going. IAC will provide advice to the Chancellor.
- Next step: budget proposal for FY11. The Chancellor's office agreed to provide preliminary information about the FY11 athletics budget to the IAC in May 2010. This along with the consultants' report will be the basis of on-going discussions about deficit reduction [Recommendations #22, Proposed budget, and #23, Plan for deficit reduction].

Relationships between Campus Health Services and the Athletic Department. A top priority of the IAC is to clarify UIS policy on responsibilities for student-athlete health. This pertains to the IAC's responsibility to advise the Chancellor on development and monitoring of policies affecting student-athlete welfare, including their physical welfare. Policy concerning pre-participation physical exams must be in place before fall semester orientation [Recommendation #12, Policy on CHS responsibilities].

- The IAC invited Campus Health Services Director Lynne Price and Head Athletic Trainer Les Mitkos to its April 29 meeting to share information about current practices and recommendations for policy. VCSA Tim Barnett distributed a document comparing practices at a variety of Division II institutions. Discussion raised issues including: appropriate location of primary responsibility for medical exams, medical history, and health education for student-athletes; communication and collaboration between CHS and Athletics; student-athlete privacy; and student concerns about access to health services facilities and physician appointments for athletes and the general student population.
- Next step: Les Mitkos and Lynne Price will meet for further discussion of appropriate roles of CHS and Athletic Trainers. They will update IAC before the end of the semester. IAC recommends regular communication between CHS and the Athletics Department.

Other matters pertaining to student-athlete welfare. Though time has been short this spring, the IAC has begun to build a list of priorities for work that will continue into the fall:

- The IAC identified recommendation #16 [criteria for identifying a crisis requiring consultation with IAC chair and FAR] as a high priority, noting that a "flow chart" could take some of the subjectivity out of decision-making in individual cases. This requires further discussion with the administration.
- VCSA Barnett affirmed that the Division of Student Affairs is aiming for summer 2010 completion of an electronic judicial database that will include information and updates on campus infractions. Once the system is in place quarterly reports will be provided to the IAC [Recommendation #7].
- IAC intends to consult with representatives of the Division of Student Affairs to clarify the "legitimate educational interest" exception in FERPA [Recommendation #17] and to discuss issues (including those of student-athlete privacy) related to generation of reports for assessing academic quality [Recommendation #2]. These discussions will begin before the end of the semester.
- Review of student-athlete advising was identified as a high priority [Recommendation #5]. The IAC notes that this is an all-campus issue. The Compliance Committee (which consists of the

FAR and Compliance Office as well as representatives from Admissions and Financial Aid) reported to the IAC on their current discussions in this area.

- Other recommendations discussed by the IAC establish priorities for IAC work in Fall 2010. For example, a priority is to compile a list of reports relating to student-athletes that should be produced on a regular schedule to facilitate the work of the IAC in assessing standards of academic integrity and quality [Recommendation #2].