

May 7, 2010

TO: Campus Senate
FROM: Ed Wojcicki, Associate Chancellor for Constituent Relations
RE: Following up on report by committee investigating athletics

General statement:

In response to the 31 recommendations, it is not a matter of which ones we will implement or not implement. The most important questions are: Are we paying attention to the recommendations, and are they affecting our thinking? The answer is yes.

Actions:

1. Administration agreed with eight of the recommendations in the report, and they are part of our *modus operandi*, or will be enacted. That was stated earlier.
2. Chancellor charged Ed with leading the administration's response to the report.
3. Nineteen recommendations need more review and discussion with the appropriate people at UIS. They have been analyzed. Significant subject matter includes (but is not limited to):
 - a. IAC/consulting/informing
 - b. Admissions
 - c. Reports, forms, and who creates them and uses them
 - d. Conduct, infractions
 - e. Advising
 - f. Support services for student-athletes
 - g. Student Affairs and its connection to student-athletes
 - h. General team rules and expectations for coaches and student-athletes
 - i. FERPA
 - j. Budget, fees

The administration plans to address these topics. They are summarized here in fewer than 50 words, which is manageable.

4. Communication has improved:
 - a. The SEC designated Lynn Fisher as a liaison to connect dots between the SEC and the administration, and between the IAC and the administration.
 - b. The IAC has met three or four times, with fruitful conversations.
 - c. We shared the latest year-to-date budget information with the IAC.
 - d. Ed met with Athletics staff and was a guest at an IAC meeting.
 - e. Regarding Athletics, Ed has met and communicated otherwise with Lynn Fisher multiple times, with Tih-Fen Ting, with AD Rodger Jehlicka, with Chancellor Ringeisen, with VCSA Tim Barnett.
 - f. Ed, Dr. Barnett, FAR Marcel Yoder and former IAC chair Ryan Williams have a meeting scheduled next week.
 - g. Sharing information often and in a timely manner is an administration goal.

5. Dr. Barnett has reviewed all recommendations pertaining to Student Affairs
6. Some issues emerged at the IAC meeting where Ed was a guest:
 - a. Recommendation 12. Regarding putting a policy into writing about physicals and the relationship of Campus Health Services to Athletics. This will be in place in time for the Academic Year 2010-11, after consultation with the IAC, Dr. Barnett and AD Jehlicka.
 - b. Fundraising is a major issue. See #8 below.
 - c. Advising is a major concern; better advising is needed, but not just with Athletics.
 - d. An understanding of the role of the IAC needs clarification. This will be addressed.
7. Licensing-merchandising: We are in conversation with a firm that handles licensing and merchandising. We are reviewing draft language on a possible agreement. The hope is to get UIS merchandise into local stores by the fall semester 2010 if possible.
8. Fundraising. We received a report from consultants, shared it with the IAC and the Athletics staff, and prepared an implementation plan. We also shared the implementation plan with the IAC, the Chancellor's Cabinet, and the athletics staff.

Concluding thoughts

The investigation committee has provided a considerable amount of thoughtful material and ideas.

I am deeply grateful to Tih-Fen Ting and Lynn Fisher for their leadership in recent weeks.

Two facts that have been lost in the public discussion since the committee's 2010 report went to the Campus Senate on March 12, 2010:

1. The report's careful narrative included at least 20 significant statements complimenting the Department of Athletics and/or concluding it found no concerns about a number of areas that the committee studied. The PowerPoint report to the Campus Senate ignored all of these.
2. There were previous Campus Senate reports on Athletics (in 2004 and 2008), which included a combined 34 recommendations. The 2010 report analyzed these recommendations – and split some of the recommendations into more than one, for a total of 38 recommendations -- and found that 74% of them have been implemented, partially implemented, or are now a part of UIS policies. So is the proverbial glass three-quarters full or one-quarter empty?

There is an unscientific 80-20 rule that applies to many situations. In this case, I paraphrase the rule to say that we probably can find agreement on the spirit of 80 percent of the issues that we're talking about. We intend to focus more on the 80 percent so that we can work together better for the benefit of our student-athletes, and indeed, all of our students.