INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS COMMITTEE  
Year-end report to Campus Senate  
AY 2005-2006

During the 2005-2006 academic year, the Intercollegiate Athletic Committee (IAC) met its charge by (1) completing tasks recommended by the Athletic Review Task Force in the report dated July 8th 2004, (2) handling routine issues for the committee, and (3) instituting new procedures.

**Completing tasks recommended by the Athletic Review Task Force**

**Athletic Department’s relationship with Campus Health Services:** The Athletics Review Task Force (final report dated July 8, 2004) specifies “that a written policy be adopted setting out the role, responsibility and authority of the campus Health Services in relation to the Athletic Department and student-athletes” (recommendation #4). The Division of Student Affairs addressed this issue by changing the organizational structure of the division. Specifically, the Division of Student Affairs has changed the organizational structure of Athletics and Health Services so that the Athletic Trainer, Rebecca Townsend, reports to the Director of Health Services. The IAC heard from Chris Miller, VCSA, and Lynn Price, Director of Health Services, regarding this issue and was satisfied that the issue has been successfully addressed.

**Communication between Athletic Department staff and Instructors:** The Task Force report states that “consultation with and consent of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs be obtained prior to either contacting faculty member/instructor concerning a student-athlete’s grades or contacting academic support staff regarding certification or eligibility of a student-athlete” (recommendation #10). This recommendation has been addressed by the IAC by revising the process by which the Athletic Director and coaches are made aware of student-athletes' academic progress. This recommendation was addressed by the Athletic Department by creating a list of guidelines that stipulate the role of the Athletic Director and Faculty Athletic Representative in matters of the academic progress of student-athletes. The IAC received a draft of these guidelines. The only guideline relevant to this issue states that the path of contact from athletics to instructors is to begin from the student-athlete to the instructor, then (if necessary) from the student-athlete’s academic advisor within the major to the instructor, then (if necessary) from the Faculty Athletic Representative to the instructor. The IAC felt that the guidelines successfully addressed the issue.

**Athletic Department Financial Issues:** The Task Force report states “that a policy/plan be adopted to move athletic scholarships to realized income, rather than projected funds, that the Scholarship clearing CFOPAL have a zero balance at the end of each semester. Depending on the funding source, the posting of athletic scholarship expenditures should occur each semester to athletic gift CFOPAL or the particular athletic team CFOPAL, and that the Scholarship clearing CFOPAL balance and athletic gift CFOPAL activity be included in the monthly financial reports submitted to the Vice Chancellor” (recommendations #5, #6, & #7). The Athletics Department has taken steps to address these recommendations. The IAC received a report from the Athletic Department Office Manager and the Visiting Assistant to the Vice
Chancellor for Student Affairs, as it has yearly since the Task Force report. IAC views the Athletic Department is successfully addressing these issues.

Student-athlete housing violations: The IAC, in conjunction with the Athletics Department was charged by the Athletics Review Task Force to “investigate all teams which have a disproportionate number of violations / infractions committed by student-athletes and propose a plan of remediation” (recommendation #2). The report identified the men’s basketball team as particularly problematic during AY 2003-2004. The Task Force Report included UIS housing violations for the academic year 2003-2004 (Appendix G of Report). In order to put these numbers in an historical context the IAC, working with the campus housing, obtained data for two years prior to AY 2003-2004. The IAC has been receiving reports from housing via the Assistant Dean of Students since fall 2004. With these additional data the IAC was better able to understand the violations for AY 2003-2004. After careful examination of the violations the committee has concluded that student-athlete violations for AY 2003-2004 were atypical, both in terms of the number of violations and the proportion committed by the men’s basketball team. The number of violations committed by student-athletes during that time was higher than any academic year prior or since. IAC has received no reports from the Assistant Dean of Students since the fall of 2004. Therefore, the IAC sees no consistent pattern of violations being committed by any particular team, including men’s basketball, making a plan for remediation unnecessary. At the conclusion of the 2005-2006 men’s basketball regular-season the American Midwest Conference announced the academic all-conference team. UIS lead all teams with 9 academic all-conference players. The committee was pleased to see the combination of the decrease in housing violations and the outstanding academic performance of the men’s basketball team. In addition to the awards earned by the men’s basketball team, the committee recognizes the volleyball team with 1 all region player, 1 all conference player, and 2 players earning conference honorable mention, and the women’s basketball team with 1 conference honorable mention,

**Routine issues addressed by the committee**

Student-athlete academic contracts: At the beginning of each semester student-athletes are required by the Athletic Department to submit their game and travel schedule to instructors and discuss any potential conflicts with class meeting times and resolve those potential conflicts. These contracts are signed by the student-athlete, instructor, and coach and kept on file in the athletics office. Each semester the IAC receives reports from athletics summarizing the return rate of these contracts. The IAC was satisfied with the return rate of these contracts for the fall 2005 and spring 2006 semesters.

Review student-athletes progress on degrees: The IAC received a report from the Faculty Athletics Representative that summarized student-athletes’ GPA, semester hours completed, and seasons of competition completed. The IAC was satisfied that the student-athletes certified as academic eligible for competition for the fall semester are making acceptable progress toward earning their degrees.
New procedures instituted

Monitoring student-athlete academic progress: In the spring semester of 2006 the IAC asked the Faculty Athletics Representative to contact the instructors for each student athlete and ask for a report of the student-athletes academic progress. Instructors’ responses went directly to the Faculty Athletics Representative, Athletic Director, and coach. The IAC received positive feedback and thanks from the Athletic Department regarding these reports. The Athletic Director shared with the committee how coaches will use the information provided by instructors. IAC discussed how the procedure can be revised in the future to maximize the response rate of instructors.

Review of Athletic Department student-athlete behavioral guidelines: The IAC reviewed the behavioral guidelines that are presented to each student-athlete by the Athletic Department in their sport-specific orientation session. The IAC found the Athletic Department receptive to changes suggested by the IAC.

Respectfully submitted by Marcel Yoder, chair, Intercollegiate Athletics Committee