

**University Athletics Committee
Annual Report
2005-06**

The University Athletics Committee (UAC) met five times during the 05-06 academic year:

October 13, 2005
December 15, 2005
January 24, 2006
February 21, 2006
April 25, 2006

The main focus of the University Athletics Committee this year was to establish subcommittees to assist student-athletes and/or the athletic department. The following areas of emphasis for the committee were identified:

Practice and Scheduling Policy

As a Division I program, the NCAA will be conducting a compliance review and various policies and procedures were examined. Policies and procedures from other institutions were used to develop those to be used at NDSU. The target date for completion is spring 2006 for implementation in the fall of 2006.

Internal Review of Title IX

The NCAA will review 13 standard areas to determine if there are any gender equity issues. Although the Office of Civil Rights determined the athletic department was in compliance after conducting a review a number of years ago, the current situation was reviewed to ensure continued compliance. It was recommended that Dr. Holbrook be included as an ex-officio member of the UAC sub-committee to review this item.

Minority Issues

Eight program areas are identified by the NCAA to review. The university's Strategic Plan for Diversity, Equity and Community will be used to assist in developing the plan for athletics.

Exit Interviews and Annual Student-Athlete Program Survey

The NCAA requires periodic review regarding the welfare of student-athletes. Current evaluation tools were reviewed and revisions recommended.

Student-Athlete Appeals

Institutions must have established grievance or appeal procedures available to student-athletes. The current policy was reviewed and revisions recommended.

Other topics of discussion included:

NCAA Academic Progress Rate (APR) Report

The APR, as required by the NCAA, is calculated by allocating points for eligibility and retention, awarding academically eligible student-athletes two points per term, one for eligibility and one for staying in school. A team's APR is the total points of a team's roster at a given time divided by the total points possible. An APR score of 925 is the threshold (or "cut" score) that teams must meet to avoid penalties. The athletic department actually started tracking student-athlete's academic progress last year, a year prior to the official requirement. The only NDSU sport under 925 is baseball, which is not unusual for many institutions.

Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC)

Sheila Parrish, the SAAC representative from volleyball, provided a review of activities at each UAC meeting. Some of the activities the teams participated in include the Roger Maris Walk for Life; Meth Community Toolbox; selling GoBison bracelets with proceeds going to the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund; Valentine's Annual Blood Drive; co-sponsoring the movie MurderBall along with Campus Attractions as part of National Disability Awareness Month; a session on interviewing and resume building; and visits to the children in the MeritCare Children's Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House. The group also created a program called "Herd Up", where each sport designates a "Herd Up" home contest and student-athletes from the other athletics teams attend and provide their support.

"Eat Smart. Play Hard." Nutrition Program

The North Dakota State University Extension Service and Bison Athletics collaborated on a statewide community service campaign entitled "Eat Smart. Play Hard." that emphasizes the importance of healthy eating and physical activity. Julie Garden-Robinson, Extension Food & Nutrition Specialist and the UAC's University Senate Liaison, spearheaded the project with assistance from Troy Goergen, associate athletic director for marketing and media relations. The campaign features NDSU athletes on a poster showing the athletes in their sports uniforms, displaying fruits, vegetables and other healthy foods. Bookmarks featuring the athletes were also designed and were distributed to all elementary schools in North Dakota. Public service announcements with the "Eat Smart. Play Hard." message were also released in March.

Conference Affiliation

Conference affiliation remains a top priority for the department. Expansion of the Mid-Continent and Big Sky Conferences are still possibilities. Affiliate membership in the Mid-Con was also requested for baseball and softball and possibly track and golf. Soccer was accepted into the United Soccer Conference for the 2006 season and will be eligible for conference championship opportunities and discussions for a new wrestling conference are moving forward.

Fundraising & Facilities

Construction for the football offices at the Fargodome started mid-November and was completed in March. Construction of locker rooms, meeting rooms, training and equipment areas should be completed by July. The projected cost is \$3.1 million which includes furniture and fixtures. The project will be bonded through the Development Foundation and fundraising materials have been created.

Fundraising efforts are moving along well for the Bison Sports Arena with over \$5 million in commitments received, including \$3 million in cash donations. Architects' bids have been requested. The scoreboard project has been completed and banners were installed in the BSA. The Momentum Campaign goal for athletics is \$8 million although it may not cover the entire cost of the renovation and addition. The project could be completed in stages as additional funds are raised.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Kelsch, Chair
University Athletics Committee

