

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
FACULTY COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS  
WEDNESDAY, May 7, 2008, 2:30-4:00 p.m.  
HUB 304 F

Chair Brian Fabien called the meeting to order at 2:37 p.m.

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Approval of minutes from the 4-2-08 meeting.
2. Discussion with members of Advisory Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics (ACIA). (Mr. Jeff Compher, Executive Associate Director of Athletics, Intercollegiate Athletics, Professor Patrick Dobel, Faculty Athletic Representative, Ms. Kim Durand, Associate Athletic Director for Student Development, Intercollegiate Athletics, and Professor Robert Stacey.)
3. Report from the chair.
4. Report from the ASUW representative.

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**1. Approval of minutes from the 4-2-08 meeting.**

The minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

**2. Discussion with members of Advisory Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics**

There was a change in the guest list. Today's special guests included Mr. John Morris, Senior Associate Athletic Director for Compliance, Intercollegiate Athletics, Ms. Kim Durand, Associate Athletic Director for Student Development, Intercollegiate Athletics, Professor Robert Stacey, Divisional Dean, Arts & Humanities Divisions, Chair, Advisory Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics, and Dr. Phil Ballinger, Director of Admissions.

Chair Fabien started the discussion by announcing that the purpose today is to hear from the members of the Advisory Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics (ACIA) on student-athletes. Fabien asked special guest Phil Ballinger if the current admissions policy was the same as the 2005 policy. Ballinger explained that the current admissions policy will be up for policy review and revision at the end of this year. He also noted that the Faculty Council on Academic Standards subcommittee will be reviewing it for special admit and special priority students.

Special guest John Morris explained that they would like to give quick answers to a list of questions using a lot of data. The panel had a thick packet of information for everyone to follow as they presented their data. The first sheet was a fact sheet outlining the UW student athlete population broken down into men's and women's sport programs, numbers of male and female athletes, numbers of financial aid recipients and financial aid package totals. Morris reported that this fact sheet is produced yearly in the Athletic Department. He noted that there are approximately 644-674 student-athletes participating in 24 sports programs in a year.

The next handout was a breakdown of the demographics of the UW Athletic Program, by personnel, sports programs, citizenship, ethnicity, and gender. Morris spoke about the athletic budget for 2007-08. With a total budget of \$59 million the UW athletic budget is ranked #5 in the Pac10. He described the athletic program as self-sufficient. Morris broke down the athletic program expenses such as athletic scholarships (\$8 million/yr), travel (\$3 million/yr), and institutional overhead (\$4 million/yr). He said the football program was the main source of revenue for the athletic program and described the various sources that fund it.

Invited guest Tom Colonnese asked about the breakdown for academic support for student-athletes. Special guest Kim Durand explained that the academic support budget for student-athletes has increased two and half times, they spend about \$280,000 a year for tutoring services and have added three new positions. She described the various academic support services available to student athletes such as one-on-one tutoring and small group work. President's Designee Eric Godfrey inquired about what they are doing programmatically to help student athletes academically. Durand responded by describing the four units devoted to academic support: advising, coordinating/ goal setting, tutoring/learning, and resources. She noted that they have added a new life skills program that focuses on career development and community service, with a link to Project Pipeline. Durand also pointed out that their reporting line has changed so that they now report to Ed Taylor, Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs as well as to the Athletic Director.

The next set of data was a comparison of team grade point averages for the 2007-08 academic year. Morris noted that those figures are used to track trends and to follow which teams are struggling. There are currently 17 teams with a GPA over 3.0. There was some discussion of the challenges facing student-athletes who have too much free time. Council members looked at data on student-athletes who are on academic probation. Durand noted that the 21 students listed for winter quarter 2008 are mostly from the freshman football class. This number is somewhat larger than normal, and they are looking at it. She explained that a student gets placed on academic probation when he has two consecutive quarters with a grade point average below 2.0. Football Coach Tyrone Willingham also has put in place mechanisms to ensure his student-athletes work at their studies. Ballinger added that the FCAS subcommittee will be investigating these figures.

Council members brought up the issue of student-athletes and majors. Durand said that there are no "easy majors" at UW. For her office the biggest challenge is in breaking the use of peer-pressure in the selection of majors. A discussion began about the limited numbers of majors to which special admit students have access. Durand described a common pattern of student-athletes who shift choices in majors because of academic problems and program prerequisites that cannot be met. She explained that her office is working to counteract that pattern by providing more services to these students to help them focus on key classes and utilize review sessions.

Morris explained the NCAA's emphasis on increasing the graduation rates of student-athletes. He described their formula for determining progress, and how a student can

become ineligible if she or he fails to show progress. Chair Fabien asked what happens to students who don't graduate. Morris responded by comparing the NCAA and the Federal methods for determining graduation success rates. The Federal rate is based upon an initial figure of student-athletes which is divided by the number of students who have graduated at the end of 5 years. It does not take into account student transfers or drop-outs. So, even though some student-athletes have high grade point averages, transfer to another school, and graduate, the UW can't count them as successes. The NCAA method is more flexible and reflects a higher graduation success rate for UW student-athletes than the Federal rate. Questions were directed to the number, rather than percentage, of student-athletes who fail to graduate. It was noted that under the special admits policy there are approximately 2-3 students who have a real problem. Ballinger explained that his office tracks these students and that there are people there to help them. He also noted that special admit students are not admitted without going over their case with the Faculty Athletic Representative, the Vice-Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs, the coach, and Athletic Director. Fabien shared his belief that to lose even one student is wrong and that the UW should not be in the business of sports because it is an academic institution. A discussion began about admitting student-athletes who are not likely to succeed at the UW and whether they gain something from the experience of being here and playing sports, or whether they are being exploited by the institution. Council participants explored various reasons as to why special admit athletes, particularly African American, struggle or end up dropping out. Those reasons included considering societal factors such as economic need and those students who might need particular accommodations for some kind of learning disability. Guest Robert Stacey suggested that the answer can be explained, in part, by the \$6,000 differential in state undergraduate funding. Further discussion began about how to help first generation, low income freshman students who make up approximately 22% of the student body. The issues of economics and race were also examined in light of special admit athletes.

Chair Fabien concluded that the only real concern appears to be the 2-3 special admit student athletes who will likely flunk out. He inquired about who is monitoring their situation. Ballinger replied that the FCAS subcommittee is looking into the situation, and he recommended that they invite a member from that committee to speak to the council. Stacey announced that they will be rewriting the ACIA charter and recommending having a permanent member from FCSA on board.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

*Minutes by Melissa Kane, Faculty Senate, mmkane@u.washington.edu*

**Present:** **Faculty:** Berninger, Fabien (Chair), Fearn-Banks, Schwartz  
**President's Designee:** Godfrey  
**Ex Officio Reps:** Miller, Winans  
**Absent:** **Faculty:** Rasmussen (excused)  
**Ex Officio Reps:** Collins (excused), Hahn, Perrin (excused)

**Special guests:** John Morris, Kim Durand, Robert Stacey, Phil Ballinger  
**Invited guests:** Clarence Spigner, Tom Colonnese