Boston College

Athletics Advisory Board
Annual Report, 2006-07

This Annual Report is intended to summarize for the University community both the major developments related to Boston Collegeôs intercollegiate athletics program and the Athletics Advisory Boardôs (AAB) primary activities during the preceding academic year. Minutes of the AABôs meetings during the past year are appended to this report as Attachments A ï G.

1. The Yearôs Highlights

The year saw many successes for BC student-athletes, both academically and athletically. A few of these will be summarized below. In addition, this was our second full year as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), which entailed continued academic collaboration among the member schools as well as athletic competition.

A. ACC Academic Collaboration

The Inter-Institutional Academic Collaborative among ACC Universities (ACCIAC) mounted its second year of initiatives, in wf

Assoc. Kar en Miller (History) has participated in an ACCIAC Faculty

Development research trip to Africa this past summer. The second annual ñMeeting of the Mindsò conference, designed to showcase undergraduate research at member institutions, was held at the University of Virginia in April, and four BC students gave presentations on their research projects. For further details, please see the conference Web site, www.acciac.org and the BC page, http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/acciac.html.

B. Academic Achievements of Individual BC Student-Athletes

A number of BC student-athletes were recognized for their academic achievements and potential for future graduate study during the past year. Jennifer Maurer (LSOE, womenôs soccer) and Christopher Wilson-Byrne (A&S, menôs swimming) were awarded NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships for distinguished achievement in academics, athletics and community service. In addition, Allison Anderson (A&S, womenôs volleyball), Robert Dittrich (CSOM, baseball) and Jennifer Maurer were all awarded ACC Postgraduate Scholarships. A large number of other student-athletes also showed excellent academic performance. For example, 124 student-athletes achieved cumulative GPAs of 3.50 or better as of the end of the spring semester, 2007.

C. NCAA Measures of Student-Athlete Ac

University. Efforts have been underway to implement these recommendations, which include a move of final responsibility for certification of the eligibility of all student-athletes to the Universityôs Office of Student Services. Notification was also received this past spring of the upcoming NCAA Athletics Certification. This is the second time BC has undergone the certification process, the first having occurred ten years ago. The first major step in the process is the preparation of a self-study of the athletics program. Help will be solicited from a broad cross section of the University in preparing this self-study, which will be due at the end of the upcoming academic year. This will be followed by NCAA committee review and an evaluation visit in 2008-09.

E. Athletic Program Highlights

BC teams achieved considerable success on the playing field during

schedules. Betweet

communication between the academic and athletic programs, and we are always open to your questions or other input.

The Athletics Advisory Board:

Robert Bloom (Law)
Susan Bruce (LSOE)
Mary Ellen Fulton (LSOE)
Lynn Lyerly (History)
Michael Malec (Sociology)
Judith Shindul-Rothschild (CSON)
Paul Spagnoli (History)
Richard Tresch (Economics)
Robert Taggart (CSOM, Chair and Faculty Athletics Representative)

AAB Annual Report 06-07 Attachment A

Minutes of the Athletics Advisory Board Meeting
October 16, 2006
11:30 AM-12:30 PM
Fulton Hall 413

Members present: Susan Bruce, Lynn Lyerly, Mike Malec, Judy Shindul-Rot

conjunction with first James L. Shulman and subsequently Sarah A. Levin, have raised questions about whether the educational experience of student-athletes is comparable to those of other students on U.S. college campuses and whether any divide between athletics and acade

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AAB Annual Report 06-07 Attachment C

2. Possible Remedies fo

athletes are told in advance that they will face challenges but that not all of them appreciate the true magnitude of these challenges. It was also asserted that team members in higher-profile sports sometimes receive more complete information about available services and resources, and that while the same resources are available to all student-athletes, some of them are not fully aware of that. It was also suggested that it might be useful to set aside a day in which an administrator from each s

AAB Annual Report 06-07 Attachment D

Minutes of the Athletics Advisory Board Meeting
February 22, 2007
11:30AM -12:45 PM
Fulton Hall 524

Members present: Susan Bruce, Mary Ellen Fulton, Lynn Lyerly,

scholarships and new facilities. He showed that total donations to athletics had risen nearly six-fold during this period. At the same time, however scholarship costs have also risen substantially. He also stressed the importance of compliance wit

ACC membership came in the form of national exposure, through television and other media sources, and association with a number of highly-ranked national universities.

B. The Impact of the Move to the ACC on Travel Time and Missed Classes

Questions arose about how much the move to the ACC

AAB Annual Report 06-07 Attachment E

Minutes of the Athletics Advisory Board Meeting
March 29, 2007
11:30AM -12:45 PM
Fulton Hall 412

Members present: Lynn Lyerly, Mike Malec, Judy-Shindul-Rothschild, Bob Taggart; Dick Tresch, member-elect Paul Spagnoli

Members absent: Susan Bruce, Mary Ellen F

program. Full-time staff members are encouraged to think of themselves as educators, mentors and advisors to student employees and to train student employees in the principles of respect, positive attitude, good judgment, professional conduct, accountability and continuous improvement. Student training includes safety, facility maintenance, and Plex rules in addition to customer service.

In reply to questions, John detailed the availability of emergency response equipment in the Rec Plex. He also said that a facilities supervisor with emergency response certifications was always on duty during Rec Plex hours.

A question arose about whether Rec Plex staff attempt to identify members who may be at risk for eating disorders or over-exercise. He said that, while approaching members about such issues was delicate, the staff was attuned to these possibilities and that individual members had been helpful in alerting staff on occasions to other members whom they thought might be experiencing problems. John also said that efforts had been made recently to increase the wellness component of Rec Plex program offerings.

3. Facilities and Services

John gave a brief overview of available facilities and services and how these have changed over time, including Rec Plex additions and renovations. He noted that the Rec Plex is open 18 hours per day on weekdays and 12 or more hours per day on weekends.

Quest m d

5. Programs and Other Rec Plex Use

Finally, John described recreational programs offered and other Rec Plex use. The Plex currently offers 123 programs, 30 of them new this year, in such areas as aquatics, individual fitness and group fitness. These are marketed to the BC community through the Web site, posters, brochures and email messages.

Intramural sports attracted over 7300 participants in 2005-06 (up from just over 4000 in 1996-97) in 15 different sports. In response to questions, particularly about ice time, John acknowledged that intramural, club and varsity sport use does pose scheduling challenges for existing facilities.

BC Recreation also oversees 22 club sports, which attracted over 800 participants in 2005-06. These sports are arranged in three tiers according to requirements they must meet and university benefits for which they are eligible. Some questions arose about the fact that club sports fall under the supervision of BC Recreation but receive their funding from the Office of the Dean for Stu

AAB Annual Report 06-07 Attachment F

Minutes of the Athletics Advisory Board Meeting
April 26, 2007
11:30AM -12:30 PM
Fulton Hall 412

Members present: Mary Ellen Fulton, Lynn Lyerly, Mike Malec, Judy Shindul-Rothschild, Bob Taggart; Dick Tresch, member-elect Paul Spagnoli

Members absent: Susan Bruce

Guest: Boston College Head Football Coach Jeff Jagodzinski

The entire meeting was devoted to an informal discussion with BC [redacted]

Jeff said that he carefully monitors class attendance reports for his footbal

community-building, as he felt that pla

AAB Annual Report 06-07 Attachment G

Minutes of the Athletics Advisory Board Meeting
May 7, 2007
11:30AM -12:45 PM
Fulton Hall 412

Members present: Susan Bruce, Mary Ellen Fulton, Lynn Lyerly, Mike Malec, Bob Taggart; Dick Tresch, members-elect Bob Bloom, Paul Spagnoli
Members absent: Judy-Shindul-Rothschild

Guest: Boston College Associate Athletic Director and Senior Womenôs Administrator, Jody Mooradian

The meeting was devoted to a discussion of questions developed by AAB members, based on their analysis of spring semester practice and competition schedules in the different varsity sports.

1. Baseball: During periods when the team has morning practice in the bubble, do team members have any flexibility on practice? For example, could a player take an

There is a team lift time at 1 PM, but this is flexible if a team member needs to take a class at that hour. In general, many coaches with afternoon practice times encourage their players to try to finish classes by early afternoon if possible so that fewer classes will be missed because of travel for competition. Jody pointed out that womenôs basketball is similar, in that the 2-7 PM or 1-7 PM periods shown on the practice schedule are not all taken up by practice and team meetings. Rather, the coach prefers that players be available during those periods if possible, but players can take a 2 PM class in the spring if needed.

How do players work around the conflict between the ACC Tournament and our final exam period?

Team members try to resolve any conflicts on an individual basis with their instructors and are encouraged to try to work these out as early in the semester as possible.

5. M & W Track: The schedule shows practice from 12 ï 2 PM and again from 4 - 5 PM on Wednesday and Friday. Do all team members participate in both sessions?

No. Practice is divided according to event. The early practice period is for runners, while the later period is primarily for field events.

A more general discussion followed concerning sports in which practice and competition schedules dictate that student-athletes may have difficulty taking classes for which they would miss fewer than two full weeks of class (i.e., no more than five missed classes for a MWF class or no more than 3 missed classes for a T TH class). For the spring semester, AAB members identified baseball, womenôs basketball, menôs and womenôs golf and softball as appearing to fall in that category. While acknowledging that travel schedules for baseball golf and softball pose special problems for team members during the spring semester, Jody did point to some mitigating factors. As previously discussed, womenôs basketball and softball do have some flexibility as to the practice times shown in the schedule. In addition, the ACC softball schedule typically includes a doubleheader in weekend series, which reduces classes missed because of travel. ACC baseball typically does not include doubleheaders, however, in part because some of the southern schools can attract relatively large crowds playing on three successive days. Jody also pointed out that, in golf, team members who perform poorly academically in the fall semester do not travel with the team in the spring semester.

Some AAB members expressed a desire for additional information about the actual academic schedules and academic performance of teams that face particular scheduling challenges. Bob Taggart agreed to gather some information and present it at a future meeting in a way that would preserve the anonymity of individual student-athletes.

Finally, Bob Taggart thanked Susan Bruce and Lynn Lyerly, whose elected terms are coming to an end, for their service on the Athletics Advisory Board the past three years.