2012 Report to the Faculty Senate by the Faculty Athletic Representative

The Athletic Council met in October 2011, and members were given an introduction to Athletic Academic Services and an explanation of the NCAA’s Academic Performance Rate (APR) by Dr. Debbie Wilson, Associate Athletic Director for Student Academic Services. Men’s Basketball received a recognition award letter from NCAA President Mark Emmert congratulating them on achieving an NCAA Division I APR in the top 10 percent of all teams in Division I NCAA Men’s Basketball. President Merten attended and expressed his gratitude to the council members for their work. In February 2012, the council received an overview of Student-Athlete Affairs from Nena Rogers, the Associate Athletic Director, for student-athlete affairs. In April, representatives from Intercollegiate Athletics, the Office of the Dean of Students and Campus Police spoke about Student-Athlete Conduct and the interaction between their offices. The Athletic Council recognized President Merten for his leadership and commitment to Intercollegiate Athletics and our student-athletes.

The Athletic Council website is (GoMason.com) under the “Inside Athletics” tab. Council sub-committees met separately throughout the year to conduct business relative to the council’s work. The 2011-12 Sub-Committee reports follow:

**Governance and Commitment to Rules Compliance Sub-committee (Chair, Bob Baker)**

Paul Bowden, the Associate Athletic Director for Compliance attended the February meeting to give an overview of Compliance and the NCAA’s atmosphere of “accepting” secondary violations to encourage self-reporting. The Compliance website (GoMason.com) is updated weekly. He informed Council members of impending NCAA rules changes affecting financial aid, and renewable scholarships with a final vote in April. The committee reviewed all seven areas of the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act (EADA) submitted each year by the University (complete report available at GoMason.com under the Student-Athlete tab and then under Compliance) and determined the University was in compliance. The Athletic Department is working to improve Women’s Track participation numbers, and continues to do an excellent job providing oversight of Rules Compliance through meetings with coaches, the student-athlete handbook, and the Compliance website.

**Academic Integrity Sub-committee (Chair, Eddie Tallent)**

The sub-committee focused on several areas: the importance of faculty giving mid-term grades for student-athletes, and NCAA Sportsmanship and Student-Athlete Conduct. Associate Athletic Director for Academic Services, Debbie Wilson gave a review of all Athletic Academic Advising Services with particular attention to the mandatory Academic Priority Program for student-athletes not meeting standards (less than 2.0 GPA). Some aspects of the program include mandatory study time and contact with
academic advising staff as well as sitting out a game for every class missed. The NCAA is establishing higher academic standards for initial eligibility, and raising the APR cut point from 925 to 930.

**Gender, Diversity and Student Well-Being Sub-committee (Chair, Corey Jackson)**

The sub-committee met with Nena Rogers, Associate Athletic Director of Student-Athlete Affairs, who explained all aspects of the Student-Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) and the NCAA Student Fund that is monitored by the CAA Conference guidelines. The sub-committee discussed the latest issue at a local institution regarding its policy for distributing text books as part of the student-athlete’s athletic scholarship and student-athletes receiving impermissible cash back. The process for obtaining books for student-athletes at Mason involves no cash or vouchers. The Exit Survey Instrument was reviewed and will be sent to the SAAC for additional comments and suggestions. The Faculty Athletic Representative met with the Student Athlete Advisory Council to promote the distribution and completion of the 2012 Exit Surveys for teams completing their season in the fall. In person interviews with graduating student-athletes are being conducted by the Faculty Athletic Representative and are ongoing until the end of term.

**Student-Athlete Statistics**

2004-05 Federal Graduation Rates (as required annually by Federal Law)
This graduation rate is a 6-year rate. The cohort is comprised of first time, full time undergraduates.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All Mason Students</th>
<th>Student-Athletes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004-05 Graduation Rate</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-Class Average</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>65%</td>
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In conclusion, I would like to thank each Athletic Council member for their commitment to excellence and invaluable guidance and support. On a personal note, it has been an honor to serve as the university’s Faculty Athletic Representative under the leadership of Dr. Merten.

Linda Miller
Faculty Athletic Representative
April 20, 2012

Cc: President Alan Merten
    Senior Vice-President Maurice Scherrens
    Assistant Vice President/Director of Athletics Tom O’Connor
    Senior Associate Athletics Director Sue Collins