

2015-16 Report, University Athletics Academic Advisory Committee
Submitted by Mary E. Adams, Chair

This committee is comprised of faculty, staff, community and student members. We work in three subcommittees:

Equity and Student Well-being:

Tommy Church, Anthony Walker, Myra Lovett, Vanessa Garcia (softball), Jacob Stockton (baseball)

Academic Integrity and Compliance:

Barbara Michaelides, Brett Bennett, Carl Thameling, Tom DeNardin, Anthony Malta

Governance and Fiscal Integrity:

Mary Adams, Bob Cage, James Greenlaw, Bruce Walker

During the 2015-16 academic year, the committee successfully met the following goals:

A1) Faculty and Staff Award

A2) Improved Collaboration

A1: The committee has perfected its process for selecting the Faculty Appreciation Award winner. This award is given at the Foundation Kick-Off each August. But Dr. Thameling pointed out that many staff members on campus are equally instrumental in the success of our student athletes. He formed a subcmte, together with DeNardin and Adams, to create a process for honoring a non-teaching, non-coaching employee. Together with Wickstrom, the group successfully introduced and presented this award. Our plan is to present this award each year at the ULeMmys.

A2) In discussing our accomplishments for this academic year, the group overwhelmingly noted the improved collaboration with Athletics. All on the committee (faculty, ex-officio members, community members, Athletics representatives, and student members) are dedicated to a productive relationship for the betterment of student-athletes.

The group has outlined the following categories for greater attention in 2016-17:

B1) Increased Student Athlete Membership on our committee

B2) Fall/Spring Target Events

B3) Continued Education for all Members and Increased Education for New Members

B1: Our group was particularly pleased with the level of engagement displayed by our student members. But we noted that their ability to attend meetings is hampered during their in-season months. This year, both of our student members participated in spring season sports, which meant that both were less available during the spring meetings. Our committee would like to adjust the student membership to include 4 student members per year: two spring athletes and two fall athletes. The student members would serve two-year terms and rotate on/off during the semester break. I plan to speak with Dr. Bruno about this possible adjustment.

B2: Last year, we began to identify Target events for faculty and staff. Among these events was Football Senior Day. For that game, Athletics offered 2 free tickets to every faculty/staff member and a free parking pass to the first 25 takers. This generated interest, but we learned that only 14 faculty/staff redeemed their tickets. We planned to choose a Target event for spring, but four committee members were left with flooded homes in March, leaving us less active than we had hoped to be. We will continue this effort in 2016-17, focusing on Targets in both fall and spring.

B3: In the past, members have presented on issues such as APR, news from the FAR conference, the roles of our subcmtes, and NCAA rules regarding summer employment/conditioning/competitions. We plan more such presentations; Todd has volunteered to present an overview of NCAA Compliance rules at our second meeting of the fall semester. Our new members have expressed a need for more education and information since this committee requires an in-depth understanding of the issues central to student athletes and their academic success. Therefore, we will continue regular education programs and, beginning in Fall 2016, we will maintain a Moodle page with all documents relevant to our cmte, including hand-outs from education presentations, background info on subcmtes, and minutes from all meetings.