

ANNUAL REPORT TO PRESIDENT MASON AND TO THE FACULTY SENATE ON ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS, 2013-2014

May 9, 2014

The Presidential Committee on Athletics had an active and productive year. The full membership of the PCA convened for eight public meetings; the seven-person Executive Committee of the PCA also met eight times in executive session. PCA's three standing subcommittees (Academic Achievement, Equity, and Student Athlete Well- Being) each met at least six times during the year to handle their assigned responsibilities and take on special projects.

Attendance at PCA meetings scheduled on the 3rd Thursday of the month was generally good; only occasionally was there barely a quorum present at meetings where no votes were scheduled. By invitation, a different head attended each PCA meeting to give a brief update on developments in her or his sport and to observe the PCA business meeting.

Under a protocol adopted three years ago, full reports on two perennially important areas of PCA oversight, (1) the Athletics Dept.'s budget, and (2) current progress and future plans for improving athletics facilities, are presented to the Executive Committee at the first and final PCA meetings of the year. The content of these reports is then summarized for the full PCA membership by the Chair at the public PCA meeting. Also, at the first PCA meeting of the year President Mason offered comments on current issues in intercollegiate athletics and gave her annual charge to the PCA members.

At the six other PCA meetings, routine business was conducted and speaker programs were presented dealing with various aspects of intercollegiate athletics relevant to PCA's work. Topics covered this year by invited speakers were Progress in the Detection and Treatment of Concussions, the Athletic Department's Communications Strategy, an annual report on gender and racial diversity in Athletic Dept. hiring in

2013, NCAA Compliance Enforcement, the new NCAA Certification Program, and the Northwestern unionization case. PCA meetings were scheduled 15 minutes after the usual 4 p.m. meeting time to accommodate a student member's practice schedule in the fall, and a faculty member's teaching schedule in the spring.

At its final meeting of the year, PCA voted to adopt proposed revisions in two of its procedural and policy documents, as well as a new set of guidelines for granting exceptions to PCA-imposed limits on class days missed by student athletes. All three of these documents were approved by President Mason. Subsequently, all seven of PCA's various documents dealing with the well-being of student athletes will be collected and published in an Appendix to the PCA Operations Manual on President Mason's web site, where PCA members and the public will have easy access to them.

The meeting dates of the full PCA and the Executive Committee were:

Aug. 29, 2013	Feb. 13, 2014
Oct. 3, 2013	Feb. 27, 2014
Nov. 7, 2013	April 3, 2014
Dec. 5, 2013	May 1, 2014

Most of the continuing work of the PCA is done within the three standing subcommittees. Meetings of all three subcommittees were well attended throughout the year. Highlights of subcommittee work follow.

The Academic Achievement Subcommittee carefully reviewed Iowa student athletes' academic progress and graduation rates, and twice conducted personal interviews with a small group of student athletes experiencing academic difficulties. The subcommittee spent much of the year reviewing the administration of PCA's Eight-Missed-Class-Days Policy and proposed a new set of Guidelines to facilitate consistent application of the Policy. The new Guidelines were adopted by PCA at its May 1, 2014 meeting and approved by President Mason on May 7, 2014.

The Equity Subcommittee studied possible gender equity issues in coaches and support staff across the Department of Athletics, reviewing an annual report prepared by the University Diversity Office. The Subcommittee also reviewed the Iowa experiences of diverse student athletes as reported in annual questionnaires regularly administered to all student athletes. Throughout the year the subcommittee conducted interviews with eight head coaches to review equity and diversity issues, and reported a summary of the results of these interviews to the Athletic Director.

The Student Athlete Well-Being Subcommittee (formerly the Student Athlete Welfare Subcommittee) conducted its customary examination of many aspects of student athletes' personal experiences at Iowa. The tension between student athletes' achieving athletic success, making satisfactory academic progress, and having positive social experiences as college students continues to be of concern. Much of the year was spent reviewing proposed revisions of the Student Athlete Grievance Process and the Guiding Principles for Iowa Student Athletes in Their Use of Social Media Sites. Both revisions proposed by SAW were adopted by the PCA at its May 1, 2014 meeting and approved by President Mason on May 7, 2014.

This spring marks the end of Dean Emeritus Hines' term as PCA Chair. He will be succeeded for 2014-2015 by Professor Jeff Cox. The terms of two other faculty members (Karen Baker and David Lee) also expire this spring, as do the terms of the two student members (Kyle Noser and David Scott). Plus, there is an open seat in one of the two staff positions due to the resignation of one of the appointed staff members (Boyd James). I urge those responsible for appointing replacements for these members to prefer candidates genuinely interested in the interface between the academic enterprise and intercollegiate athletics, and are willing to make the necessary time commitment to engage in subcommittee work and to attend scheduled meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
N. William Hines, Chair