

**Senate Athletics Committee Meeting
November 13th, 2009**

Members:

Present

X	Timothy Averch
X	David Brienza
X	Toby Chapman
	Jean Ann Croft
X	Lou Fabian, Chair
X	Donna Nativio
	Jamie Pardini
X	Patrick Smolinski
	Dennis Swanson

Staff Association

Member:

Carol Hodgkiss

Pro-Tem Members:

X	Dan Bartholomae
X	Tony Eichelberger
	Nat Hershey
X	Jay Irrgang, Vice Chair
	Don Martin
	Kevin McLaughlin
	Ken Metz
X	Leonard Plotnicov
X	Donna Sanft

Chancellor's Liaison

Appointments:

Susan Albrecht
Robert Pack
Steve Pederson

Senate Liaison

Appointments:

Michael Pinsky
Lisa Bernardo
Lori Molinaro

Student Members:

	Rosey Natale
X	Carol Haines
X	Max Greenwald

Chair Lou Fabian called the meeting to order and stated that this meeting would be used exclusively to review select proposals that had been introduced into the 2009-10 Legislative Cycle. Lou stated that input would be sought from all committee members and their input would be reviewed with Steve Pederson and Susan Albrecht in making a

final determination on each legislative proposal. Lou then introduced Dan Bartholomae to explain the legislative process and each proposal.

Dan discussed the manner in which proposals are introduced into the legislative process and the manner in which institutions, conferences and committees provide input to the NCAA's Board of Directors, who have the final recommendation on legislative proposals.

Dan first introduced NCAA proposal 2009-22 submitted by the NCAA Division I Amateurism Cabinet. Dan explained that the proposal essentially proposes two separate concepts within one legislative proposal. First, the proposal allows a prospective student-athlete (in all sports other than men's ice hockey) to participate on a professional team prior to initial full-time collegiate enrollment provided the individual does not receive a payment (or promise of payment) in excess of their actual and necessary expenses. This piece was important because currently, any prospective student-athlete who participates on a professional team is considered to be a professional regardless of whether or not they received any salary or payment for such participation. Second, the proposal extends a rule currently in place in tennis and swimming and diving stating that an individual must enroll full-time at any collegiate institution within one academic year of their high school graduation date. Failure to enroll in such time will cause that individual to be required to sit out one year of competition, and lose one season of competition for each year after the initial one year period where the individual participated in any organized competition. The committee noted the benefits of the first part of the proposal, specifically citing the structure of the European club system where individuals are sometimes asked to participate on the premier (and professional) level of a club without receiving payment. Currently, those individuals would be considered ineligible as professional athletes. The committee expressed some concern over the limited scope of the one year enrollment required, but noted that a waiver process was available for circumstances outside of the control of the athlete (i.e. pregnancy, military service, etc). The committee unanimously supported the proposal.

Dan then introduced both 2009-32 A&B, which would propose to deregulate the phone call legislation by permitting unlimited telephone calls to senior recruits during a contact period in all sports (A) and the modified version (B) which would permit unlimited telephone calls to senior recruits during a contact period in all sports that have defined recruiting calendars. Dan noted that this rule is already in place in the sport of football. In response to a question about the possible intrusion into recruit's personal lives this may present, Dan noted that this has never been an issue in the sport of football, where students are at times heavily recruited. It was noted by the committee that this would ease the burden on athletic departments, who in light of recent infractions cases have been obligated to extensively monitor recruiting calls at great time and financial burden. The committee unanimously supported both proposals.

Next, Dan introduced proposals 2009-41 and 2009-42, both proposing to ease the printing costs imposed by media guides by eliminating printed guides altogether (41) and a modified version that would simply prohibit institutions from distributing them to recruits (42). After some discussion, the committee suggested this to be a decision better made

within the athletic department, although they noted preliminary opposition to both concepts.

Dan next introduced NCAA proposal 2009-64 which would further clarify the stipulations that would need to be met in order for a “non-traditional” (i.e. distance-learning, internet based, etc) course to be acceptable towards a prospective student-athlete’s initial eligibility requirements. Specifically, the legislation would require the instructor and the student to have ongoing interaction throughout the course, that the coursework be made available for review upon request, and that a defined time period for course completion be included. The committee unanimously supported the proposal, noting the need to accommodate the growing use of such course while also being mindful of the integrity of the academic review process.

Dan then introduced proposal 2009-65, which would eliminate the one-time transfer exception for the sport of volleyball. It was noted that the sponsor of the proposal was the Mountain West Conference, who cited the negative impact of volleyball transfers on the sport’s APR. The committee noted that in 2009 40% of degree recipients transferred to a new institution at some point during their college career, and the volleyball’s APR at Pitt is comparatively high. The committee opposed the proposal.

To conclude, Dan introduced proposal 2009-96 which would limit the amount of physical education credits a Junior College transfer in the sport of men’s basketball could transfer in towards his eligibility requirements to two credits. The proposal would also allow a student transferring into a physical education program to transfer in the maximum allowable within that program. It was noted that this proposal was forwarded from the Basketball Academic Enhancement Group, a committee put together to address the academic concerns present in men’s basketball. The committee voted to support the proposal.

In other business, the committee expressed their desire to learn more about the injury prevention and treatment process, specifically as it relates to athlete concussions. The committee referenced the recent article distributed by Len Plotnicov as well as the recent media attention the issue has received, especially in the sport of football. Lou agreed to add this as an agenda topic in the Spring.

Lou Fabian adjourned the meeting.