Intercollegiate Athletics Committee, 2004-2005 Annual Report

To the Academic Senate, Los Angeles Division:

The Athletics Department, in collaboration with the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee (IAC) proposed a plan approved by Administrative Vice Chancellor Pete Blackman to provide supplemental funding. The proposed plan was to increase tutoring services aimed at students in academic difficulty and to hire a professional learning specialist.

Two full-time staff have been hired; one Academic Counselor who has been an outstanding addition and one Learning Specialist who is noted as the best learning specialist in the country and has developed nationally recognized programs. They have already made a significant impact by not only addressing the needs but have elevated the program to become more nationally recognized. The funds from the proposal have also helped provide one on one tutoring and more mentors to help reduce the caseloads.

Staffing continues to be an issue. They are finding with the Learning Specialist that there is a lot more they could be doing in terms of learning styles and strategies, workshops; improving the quality of counseling. The specialist would like to give more diagnostic tests to the incoming freshman to help identify focus issues early on. It would cost $10,000 for additional testing.

UCLA is one of the very few schools that do not give credit for athletic related activity of any kind. UCLA’s academic qualifications remain the same or better over the past 10 years but the gap is getting bigger. Every other school UCLA competes against except for Stanford and Cal accepts students who have minimal NCA qualifications but are great athletes.

Collection of Data
The committee has been working towards a systematic process of receiving standardized data each year. After taking an in-dept look at football last year and then at all of the sports earlier this year, it was discovered that IAC was not getting all of the data needed. The data is broken down in two parts; 1) students who get in because the Student Athlete Admission Committee says they should and 2) those that are fully UC eligible. The committee would like to see their major added.

The committee will continue to collect data until a cohort has completely exited from the system. The data will become part of a historical data file, giving the committee a complete data set on the final status of each cohort member. Monitoring this data allows the committee to see trends and it increases awareness of any potential flags that may need to be raised.

Graduation Rate of Athletes on Scholarship
The committee reviewed the graduation rate of athletes on scholarship. The data they looked at included: 1) NCAA Official 6 year Graduation Rates for UCLA – 1999-2004; 2) 1997-98 Graduation Rates of Athletes on Scholarship broken down by PAC 10 competitors and gender, all students and athletes and 3) Four year Graduation Rates of Athletes on Scholarship with the same breakdown (source http://www.ncaa.org/grad_rates/). It is an NCAA rule to provide statistical data about athletes’ graduation rates to prospective students.

**Guiding Principles for Athletic Admission**

Professor Donald Morrison is an ex officio member of IAC and the Student-Athlete Admissions Committee (S-AAC) because of his position as UCLA’s NCAA representative. Chair Riley is an ex officio member on the S–AAC as Chair of IAC. UCLA athletes are only accepted through that committee.

The Committee on Admission of Student Athletes developed a “Guiding Principles and Procedures” document with IAC’s full support. The document is an effort to help IAC understand what the Committee is trying to do. It will help the Athletics department as well who have to present the candidates. The Committee can accept any athlete that meets NCAA minimum requirements. The coaches are not allowed to lobby the Committee but they can include a letter to them. This committee is unique to UCLA.

**The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA)**

COIA was formed in 2002 and is an alliance of faculty senates, welcoming membership from all Division IA schools. COIA proposed a document concerning the relationship between athletics and academics - Academic Integrity in Intercollegiate Athletics: Principles, Rules and Best Practices. The committee discussed each area covered in the COIA Executive Summary – admissions, scholarships, curricular integrity, time commitment and policies concerning the Office of Academic Advising for Athletes (OAAA). Twenty-six representatives of the 44 member schools have endorsed the document for final review and comment by the full membership. The committee sent a letter to Academic Senate Chair Kathy Komar recommending membership to COIA.

**NCAA Academic Reform**

The NCAA adopted a comprehensive academic reform package designed to improve the academic success and graduation of all student-athletes. The centerpiece of the academic reform package is the development of a new academic measurement for sports teams known as the Academic Progress Rate, or APR.

Although UCLA supports the reform, the APR needs improvement. The committee reviewed documents relating to the NCAA quarter school adjustment formula, which details why survival models are not appropriate for addressing the quarter versus semester adjusted progress rate (APR) issue.
**Men’s Volleyball**

IAC has been looking at the academic performance of student athletes team by team for the past few years. The Student Athletes Admission Committee who makes the admissions decisions was eager for IAC to explore if more can be done with the teams that reflect lower GPAs than the typical student at UCLA or is there something different about the sport that they don’t understand.

Men’s Volleyball Coach Allen Scates presented an overview of the men’s volleyball program. The team almost won the NCAA Championship game this year.

Looking at the stats from 98F to 04F the GPA’s are disappointing. It appears that the 03 group showed progress from previous years and the 04 group is doing better. Asst. Coach Sealy explained reasons for 02F being a tough year and that one of the 02 students being reflected as an academic concern has actually graduated and is going to Japan to teach English. Coach Rofer has seen a trend of students coming in now who are more competitive athletically and academically. UCLA has the best volleyball program in terms of quality and success. The standards are much higher now. Students have become much more serious about academics and volleyball. Volleyball has one of the best alumni networks.

IAC suggested exploiting the 04F group to begin setting a standard that could be maintained. The coaches agreed and said that the student athletes are getting better on the court and in their classes and the staff are working see that this progress continues.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Bland, Graduate Student Representative  
David Phillips, History  
Robert Goldberg, Molecular, Cell & Developmental Biology  
Sharon Hame, Orthopedic Surgery  
Tyler Rasmussen, Undergraduate Student Representative  
Antoinette Yancey, Public Health  
JOHN RILEY, ECONOMICS, CHAIR

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