Intercollegiate Athletics Committee, 2006-2007 Annual Report

To the Academic Senate, Los Angeles Division:

In the 2006-07 academic year the Athletics Department, in collaboration with the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee (IAC) strove to improve the academic scores of UCLA’s Student Athletes. Two programs were created and piloted this year, Community of Learners and Faculty Mentorship program, to ensure student athlete’s academic success. A primary focus this year was to see if the new programs had a positive affect on the student athlete’s scores.

Update from Intercollegiate Athletics
The Associate Athletic Director Petrina Long, Intercollegiate Athletics, frequents IAC meetings; she delivers quarterly updates to the committee.

Review of the Assistant Vice Chancellor Tom Lifka’s Report
The committee reviewed the Lifka report. The G.P.A eligibility for student athletes is 2.0 Football was doing well; they received the most support, unlike sports like woman’s water polo. The committee noted that there is a high concentration of athletes in certain majors: History, Sociology and Art History. It was explained that athletes have a difficulties getting into other majors due to G.P.A. requirements; Sociology and History also plan to add G.P.A requirement.

Athletes “missed class policy” for “away competition”
At the beginning of each quarter the professors are informed of the student athletes in their classes. They are also made aware of the “missed class”/ “away competition” policies. Some departments refuse to accept this policy. The committee agreed to advocate on the behalf of the students as these issues come along. It was suggested that Intercollegiate Athletics ask the Executive Dean of the College of Letters and Science Pat O’Brien send out a Bruin Post email every quarter to remind the faculty of the policies.

Priority Enrollment Policy
The priority class enrollment policy for athletes is not meant to be a privilege but rather a necessity; the student athletes’ academic schedules need to fit their practice schedule. The Sociology Department does not allow the athletes priority enrollment. This is a problem because many athletes are sociology majors; some students did not get into their required classes for their majors.

Faculty Mentor Program
The Faculty Mentor Program is a pilot program that is a joint effort between the athletic department and two PhD students, Eddie Comeaux and Tyrone Howard who are both former athletes at UCLA having had positive experiences with faculty mentors as undergrads. The program was piloted with the 21 football freshmen. It was stressed that the students don’t necessarily need a large time commitment, but any positive interaction between athletes and faculty members is very important and can be surprisingly effective.

Community of Learners
2006-2007 was the pilot year for Community of Learners program, there were 20 faculty mentors and 20 student-athletes from football. The faculty were asked to meet with their
student-athletes at least once every two weeks. The results were very encouraging, 15 out of 20 student-athletes are on Academic Honor Roll. It was noted that more coaches were willing to assist with academics this year than in the past. In the 2007-2008 academic year they will pull student-athletes from other teams to participate in the Community of Learners program.

**Academic Staff**

Athletics has a very comprehensive academic and life skills program. The Academic program has grown significantly; the staff works with students from orientation through post graduate. The Academic Counselors are also college counselors, they report to Penny Hein-Unruh, Director of College Academic Counseling. College counseling for the student-athletes is more centralized than that of regular students; the academic counselors are usually the first and last step to solving any of the student-athletes academic counseling issues.

**Life Skills and Championships**

The Life Skills program is to assist student-athletes with career, personal and community development. Ashley Armstrong the Life Skills and Championship counselor explained that the program has grown tremendously, but much work is still needed to bring the student-athletes to a more competitive level with regular UCLA students. The academic staff makes efforts to use University resources, such as the UCLA Career Center and the University Career Fair, when holding Life Skills programs.

**Academic Counseling**

Mike Casillas is the Director of the Student-Athlete Counseling; he meets with prospective student-athlete and explains UCLA student-athlete expectations. He also meets with each team at least twice a quarter and with individual students to plan for the next quarter. Mr. Casillas stressed the importance of the counseling staff’s presence at the J.D Morgan Center; it aids them in gaining the student-athletes’ trust.

**Freshmen Summer Program**

The 8 week Freshmen Summer Program (FSP) is designed to help the student-athletes acclimate to the campus and the academic environment. All freshmen students-athletes are required to attend; they are also required to room with a non-athlete. During the summer the students can make up 15 units.

**Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics**

The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics is a faculty organization whose goal is to ensure that faculty have input in the way athletic programs are run. In 2004-2005 IAC agreed to participate in COIA. Later, it was brought to the committee’s attention that COIA has come up with a number of inflammatory positions over time that do not necessarily represent the opinions of all of its members.

Most schools that have joined COIA are at odds with their athletic departments. The committee will further investigate the organization, and find out what membership would mean. Committee members will contact Faculty and Administrators at other Universities to inquire about their perception of COIA’s mission. They will also contact Administrators at USC and UC Berkeley to inquire why they have not joined COIA. The committee will review COIA’s agenda and other information on the organization in Fall of 2007.
Long-term Follow up of Academically at Risk Athletes
Chair Yancey discussed the long-term follow-up of academically at risk athletes. There is a general question as to whether UCLA does the academically “at-risk” athletes a favor by bringing them into the UCLA community. There is also a question as to what happens to these athletes after they leave UCLA.

Mr. Eddie Comeaux, Lecturer in the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, was asked to assist the committee in the project. The committee discussed conducting the pre and post interviews with the student athletes. The committee plan to interview student athletes who left the university 10 years ago.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Atkeson, Economics
Donald Morrison, Management
David Phillips, History
Esther Sinclair, Psychiatry & Behavioral Science
Richard Zimmer, Biology
ANTRONETTE YANCEY, PUBLIC HEALTH, CHAIR

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