

## **Minutes of the BOAC Meeting, April 28, 2009**

**Members Present:** Iyer, Walker, Stephens, Adams, Henderson, Mills, Gray, Larson, Doerner, Stotlar, Pierce, Johnson, Dunsmoor, Hinrichs

**Guests:** Kelly McClanahan, Kevin Galbraith, Drew Emmerling, Natasha Law, Sarah Cook

The meeting was held at the High Plains Room at Nottingham Stadium and called to order at 5:05 p.m.

Chair Mills began the meeting by introducing two guest coaches. Kelly McClanahan, the newly hired head Swimming and Diving coach from the University of Wyoming, explained briefly her priorities for 2009-2010 and how she will seek to implement a highly competitive DI program at UNC, noting her first priority is to raise the team GPA. Next, Kevin Galbraith, head UNC Cross Country/ Track and Field coach gave an update on the progress of his still competing and largely successful program in the 2009 outdoor track and field season. Galbraith went on to explain some of the challenges and opportunities his six DI sports afford him and his student-athletes.

Next, Chair Mills addressed the BOAC bylaw requirement "policies governing athletic conference affiliation, post-season competition... sponsored sports, and eligibility requirements," specifically the requirement to examine intercollegiate competition schedules. The Board did so for 17 of 19 team sports (missing were women's golf and softball- both sports still competing). Each schedule was discussed in relation to missed classes by number (BOAC policy allows for seven class days missed per semester per sport unless an exception is agreed to), distribution of dates, and potential effect on student-athlete academic success. Every spring semester, the Board is tasked with either accepting team schedules, rejecting them, or asking for adjustments. Before the meeting, competition schedules were distributed to the members by email. These sometimes incomplete schedules reflected the best estimates by coaches for next year's competitions. Updated schedules for softball and women's golf will be distributed when they are either completed or available. Extended discussion by the Board included an evaluation of each sport's schedule as it conformed to the Attendance Policy; great concern was expressed by Board members about sports with large numbers of absences, clustering of absences, and scheduling of contests around and even during final examination week. Of the intercollegiate competition schedules that were submitted for review by the Board, the following were approved: Volleyball, Wrestling, Football, M and W Cross Country, M and W Track and Field, Soccer, M Basketball, and M and W Tennis. The Board sent several schedules back to the coaching staffs with recommended alterations including W Basketball, Baseball, and Men's Golf. The Swimming and Diving schedule for spring 2010 was too tentative for approval but the Board did give approval to the sport's fall 2009 schedule. W Golf and Softball schedules unavailable in time for the Board meeting will be submitted for Board approval electronically over summer 2009. Results will be discussed with the Athletic Director for possible action and schedule revision. Further, Chair Mills will discuss the suggested alterations with each head coach affected.

Next, a very extensive discussion ensued about alterations to the BOAC Attendance Policy (Originally passed October 26, 2006). These alterations were suggested by Chair Mills in consultation with Jimmy Henderson, Assistant Athletic Director for Student Success, and were designed to address issues related to better ensuring student-athlete academic welfare and

establishing policies regarding changes made to BOAC approved intercollegiate competition schedules. The proposed alterations were sent out to the membership by the Chair ahead of the meeting and input was solicited from the membership and all UNC coaching staffs. The Board discussion included faculty, students, coaches, and staff, with the end result being some revisions of the proposed alterations. After revision, the Chair sent out a final version to the Board members the next day, who were then given the opportunity to provide feedback.

The following alterations to the BOAC Attendance Policy will be considered approved without dissent by the Board on April 30, 2009:

1. In the best interests of student-athlete welfare, no intercollegiate contests should be scheduled during final examinations except if conference affiliation requires regular season conference or conference tournament contests to be scheduled during exam week. In rare occasions, single home contests may be scheduled the day before final exams begin, but the preference will be that no contests, home or away, are scheduled on the day before final exam week.
2. At the student-athlete's discretion, graduating seniors will be excused from all intercollegiate competitions so that they may attend and participate in graduation ceremonies.
3. Absence letters that student-athletes give to professors outlining all missed class days due to travel and/or intercollegiate competition must be completed and available to be distributed on the first day of every class that a student-athlete is enrolled in. The coaching staff for each sport will be responsible for providing a complete intercollegiate competition schedule to the Assistant Athletic Director for Student Success at least two weeks before classes begin so that absence letters can be created ahead of the first day of classes. Furthermore, coaching staffs will be tasked with making sure that student-athletes present absence letters to each professor on the first day of class, and then get them signed and returned to the Student-Athlete Academic Success Center within the first week of classes. The Student-Athlete Academic Success Center staff and the Faculty Athletics Representative will be tasked with making sure absence letters are available before the first day of classes.
4. Any alterations to BOAC approved intercollegiate competition schedules which increase the number of full and half class days student-athletes miss due to competition and/or travel must be approved by the Athletic Director and/or sport supervisor, and the Faculty Athletics Representative. Reasonable accommodations may need to be made for post-season play.
5. Any above approved alterations to the intercollegiate competition and travel schedules reflected in the absence letters presented by student-athletes to faculty members at the beginning of the semester will mean that a second absence letter will be issued for every student-athlete affected by the change and presented to every faculty member whose class will be affected by the alteration. Coaches are strongly encouraged to make sure that student-athletes whose class attendance will be affected by the schedule

alteration gain the approval of faculty members before a student-athlete will be allowed to miss full or half days not detailed in the original absence letter.

SAAC co-president Ryan Johnson then gave the SAAC report noting that the group had a good year with increased participation and enthusiasm for student-athlete governance and activities that included the Relay for Life and other events. Johnson was encouraged by the large number of student-athletes who would be returning next year to SAAC and noted that new SACC officers had been elected, some of whom attended the Board meeting.

SRC representative and student-athlete Matt Dunsmoor then described an effort on the UNC campus named Bear Vote Initiative which is a student led effort that seeks to increase campus participation in the political process, and increase voter registration and participation. The group will be looking to partner with UNC athletics in 2009.

The Chair then profusely thanked the members present for their service over the past year and announced that BOAC would reconvene fall semester.

There being no further announcements or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.  
Submitted by

Michael Mills, Chair