

Minutes of the BOAC Meeting, March 1, 2007

Members Present: Ellis, Iyer, Mazurana, McConnell, Schaffer, Doerner, Falger, Walslaben, Wint

Ex-Officio Members Present: Boone, Henderson, Gray, Mills, Hinrichs, Frye, Olson

Guests: AVP Cardenas, AAD Kiser

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Chair Michael Mills asked the members, ex-officio members, and guests present to introduce themselves and thanked the guests and members for their time.

In announcements, AD Hinrichs noted the success of the Track and Field team's Big Sky Championship win in the Men's 4 X 400 relay, marking the first conference championship for UNC. The Wrestling team put five athletes into the NCAA championships. Hinrichs also announced the hiring of Dennis Darrell as offensive coordinator for the football team to replace departed coordinator Chad Brown. Also announced was the hiring of accounting technician Judy Friend.

In the February meeting, University Counsel Ron Lambden asked the BOAC members to review the University's bylaws concerning the BOAC, especially Bylaw III "The Powers and Duties of the BOAC," by examining the body's role in oversight and monitoring and how it might evolve to take on more responsibilities and duties. Several suggestions were offered including electing a BOAC member to be involved in both the budget process and strategic planning efforts of the athletic department. Questions were raised by the members about the history of the BOAC and its role in addressing the duties listed in Bylaw III, specifically how each area was addressed. Chair Mills suggested that perhaps the four specified duties outlined in the Bylaws (I - IV) could be addressed separately at BOAC meetings spread over the academic year at the rate of two per semester. AD Hinrichs noted that Bylaw C, subset III was due to be addressed at the April meeting involving conference affiliation issues, post season, scheduling, etc. Mills suggested that the April meeting could serve to pilot test this new procedure for insuring that the BOAC fulfills its duties.

In upcoming events, Hinrichs announced that the annual Big Sky Conference meeting will be held in Greeley May 20-22. The Spring Game for the Football team will be April 2nd. Jimmy Henderson announced that this year's UNC Academic Reception for student-athletes will be April 11th and the annual Academic Banquet will occur on May 3rd.

AAD Chris Kiser reported on fundraising activities having to do with athletics. The Blue-Gold Club is in the process of being revitalized and levels of membership are being offered from basic at \$40 to the scholarship supporting level of \$10,000. Another fundraising project utilizes an initial group of four individuals dedicated to fund-raising who will identify a total of 60 potential donors to target for gifts supporting scholarships and program enhancements. Gift amounts targeted by this group will range from \$5,000 to

\$100,000 for Football and Basketball. Another project, the Varsity Club, is designed to involve former UNC athletes, and an appeal letter went out to raise awareness of this club and solicit members. Finally, the expansion project for the UNC Athletics weight room was formally approved, an expansion which will increase the space to 2,400 square feet at a cost of approximately \$500,000.

AAD Jimmy Henderson then reported on the Academic Success efforts for student athletes. He distributed new advisement forms designed to simplify the process by helping to educate both the student and advisor about the degree requirements, as well as provide a succinct non-official degree evaluation. Henderson reported that mid-term grade reporting was down from approximately a 50% response rate for fall 2006 (using campus mail) to approximately 20% (on-line) for spring 2007. Faculty cited difficulty in recording the grades on-line and the extended time necessary to negotiate the URSA screens. This process is being examined by Academic Affairs and Henderson's office.

AAD for Compliance Megan Boone reported on the university's NCAA Academic Progress Rate (APR) Report for 2005-2006 and fall 2006. Boone explained the significance of this indicator of the academic progress of a 4 year rolling cohort of student-athletes and noted that all UNC athletic teams were meeting the APR cut-off through fall 2006, after squad adjustments were made. SWA Sherri Frye noted that some attrition due to the university's move to DI status was affecting the APR rates and retention of student-athletes would continue to be problematic. Boone finished by distributing copies of the March 2007 edition of "Bear in Mind," the official newsletter of the UNC Compliance Office.

Hinrichs then reported on the department's Strategic Planning Report, whose committee is still meeting to formulate recommendations and strategies. The finished report is due in the President's office May 1st.

Chair Mills then submitted a proposal to the BOAC membership involving the Board taking a greater role in ensuring that student-athlete absences from classes due to athletic team competitions will be limited in the future. According to the absence policy passed by the BOAC on Oct. 26, 2006, athletic teams may miss no more than seven days of class per academic term. Exceptions to this rule must be approved by the BOAC, that will consider factors outlined in the missed class policy. Mills proposed that head coaches submit final and/or tentative schedules of competition for the following year for approval by the BOAC before the last BOAC meeting during spring semester. Head coaches and/or the Athletic Department administration seeking exceptions to the policy will need to explain the factors warranting the appeal. The BOAC will then either accept or deny the request. With a denial, the proposed competition schedule will be sent back to the head coach for revision to conform with the missed class policy.

Hinrichs then gave an update on facilities and construction projects for Athletics. The Jackson Stadium renovation project is projected to be completed in late April, with the exception of the parking lot which will not be finished by that time. The Butler-Hancock fields "house" was due to be opened within the week. Construction has begun on the new

east entrance to Nottingham Field. Finally, the expansion project to the Student Recreation Center is expected to be completed April 9th.

SWA Sherri Frye then gave an Athletic Department budget update. Frye noted that budget meetings were continuing with OBIA and that the budget proposal presentations by head coaches had been completed. The Department budget had been tentatively placed at \$8.3 million but a lower figure may result through the funding process. At the current proposed budget level, UNC will still rank at the bottom of the Big Sky Conference in funding and only address the basic needs for scholarships, staffing, and other support of teams competing at the DI level. Frye and Hinrichs and others noted that confusion about how athletics is funded is leading some faculty and staff within the academic community to assume that many of the larger budget issues facing the university are due to Athletics. Finally, it was noted that contingencies are being drawn up to plan for a 1% increase, 2% redirection, and 4% redirection of funds, as the Athletic Department's budget planning team was directed to do by the UNC Administration. A subsequent discussion by members of the BOAC focused on the misconceptions about how athletics is funded, and the Board agreed that communication was important for helping the larger university community to understand athletics' role in budget decisions university wide and to provide a more accurate picture of the challenges facing the Department.

Chair Mills asked that in future meetings a report by the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) be given to describe that body's activities and that report be placed on meeting agendas. Mills then announced the next meeting would take place, April 5th, at 4:00 p.m. in the High Plains Room at Nottingham Field since Jackson Field may not be ready for use at that time.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Submitted by

Michael Mills, Chair