

## **Minutes of the BOAC Meeting, October 15, 2007**

**Members Present:** Ellis, Schreck, Mazurana, Schaffer, Doerner, Falger, Wint, Vincent, Johnson

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Feddersen (ex-Manz), Lambden, Henderson, Gray, Mills, Hinrichs, Haack, Oltjenbruns, Christman, Frye

**Guests:** None

The meeting was held at the Multipurpose Room at Jackson Stadium and called to order at 5:05 p.m. Chair Michael Mills asked the members, ex-officio members present to introduce themselves and thanked the members for their time.

In accordance with the University's bylaws concerning the BOAC, especially Bylaw III "The Powers and Duties of the BOAC," Chair Mills announced the schedule when the four specified duties outlined in the Bylaws would be addressed separately at BOAC meetings spread over the academic year at the rate of two per semester. At the November 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, policies governing the financing of intercollegiate athletics and their effectiveness will be examined. At the October meeting, the Board heard reports from Nancy Gray (Financial Aid) and Sherri Frye (SWA/AAD) to fulfill the bylaw requirement: "To recommend, evaluate, and monitor policies governing financial assistance to athletes." Gray and Frye addressed how the Financial Aid office works with student-athletes, coaches, and the Department with athletic scholarships and, in doing so, gave the Board a primer on how financial aid and scholarships work with NCAA Division I sports, gender equity Title IV issues, and the allotment of funding that UNC provides for the Department and its sports. Of note is the fact that if UNC Athletics was to fully fund scholarships and other financial programs as allowed by NCAA regulations, the amount would reach 4.5 million dollars. At present, UNC spends 1.97 million dollars on such support. Discussion centered on where the 1.97 million comes from---the University, fund raising, and private gifts, etc---and efforts to increase the monies available for financial aid and scholarships. Also of note is the fact that UNC spends the least on scholarships of any institution in the Big Sky Conference.

AAD Jimmy Henderson then reported on the Academic Success efforts for student athletes. Spring advising is starting and academic officers will be meeting with coaches and players from each of the teams. A series of faculty liaison meetings were held in preparation for spring advising. The advising sheets for each student-athlete are due Nov. 2nd. On Nov. 5th, student-athletes will be allowed to start priority registration. Because of the new procedures for advising and registering, fewer registration problems are appearing.

AAD Chris Kiser was unable to attend the meeting due to an emergency and was therefore unable to deliver his report on Foundation activities. The following is the substance of the report he prepared:

1. The Foundation is preparing materials for silent phase of athletics capital campaign. Campaign goal, to date, is \$10M for athletics, \$80M for entire university. \$10M for

- athletics will be used to construct new north end zone athletic facility (approx. \$9M) and to fund scholarship endowments (\$1M). (These plans and goals are subject to change).
2. New Blue & Gold Club brochures are being sent out to donors. The emphasis is solely on raising money to support student-athlete scholarships.
  3. The Athletic Department is preparing for the Reverse Raffle, to be held November 8th in the University Center.
  4. The Department is also preparing for the Hall of Fame weekend, to be held November 15 in the UC. The 1997 D-II National Championship football team heads the list of inductees.
  5. The Roundball/QB Club fund raising initiative raised \$170,000, which will be matched by an anonymous donor. The funds raised will assist in recruiting, salary enhancements, and ancillary expenses for football and basketball programs.

Kati Falger, SAAC Representative, delivered a report on activities having to do with the Student Athlete Advisory Council. Ms. Falger introduced new BOAC member from SAAC Ryan Johnson from wrestling. One of the goals for SAAC this year is to develop unity throughout the Athletic Department, not just through individual teams. To that end, SALT (Student Athlete Leadership Team) has instituted an inter-athletic "Olympics" pitting UNC varsity athletic teams against each other in friendly competition as teams challenge each other in fun "sports" and events to earn points. SAAC will also again participate this year in the fund raiser Toys for Tots. UNC student-athletes also participated in this year's Homecoming activities in decorating and the bonfire celebration and pep rally.

AD Hinrichs then presented a report on the recent Big Sky Conference meeting that was held October 7-8 in Salt Lake City, Utah. UNC representatives Hinrichs, Frye, Henderson, and Mills attended the meeting. Conference, Hardship Waiver, Compliance, Competition, and other committee meetings were attended by UNC representatives. Of note is the fact that UNC President Kay Norton chairs this year's President Council for the Conference, a group which met on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Two issues of importance to UNC sports were discussed and ultimately denied at the meeting: the establishment of softball as a core Big Sky sport and an expansion of the soccer postseason championships. Hinrichs noted that both issues would be brought back up before the conference in the future. Hinrichs also noted that revenue reports showed that UNC's budget of 6.4 million dollars, which falls well below the highest funded program in the conference at 15.5 million. Such discrepancies make fielding competitive teams difficult and challenging for conference championships even harder. Mills reported on the Faculty Athletics Representative meeting at which new academic requirements for some junior college transfers were enacted. Also, a motion by Montana State to weaken uniform GPA requirements for student-athletes by the conference members was defeated 5-4. The Big Sky meeting ended with Joint Athletic and Conference Council meetings at which Commissioner Doug Fullerton gave a "state of the conference" speech and an overview of national initiative and efforts nationwide in NCAA Division I and the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS, formerly Division I-AA).

A continuation of a conversation about a possible alteration to the Athletic Department's missed practice and competition policy was discussed. At the September meeting, Chair Mills asked the Board for advice concerning the following question having to do with student-athletes and non-religious holidays and/or cultural events: "How should the Athletic Department and coaches handle student-athletes who request to miss practices, competitions, and/or team meetings for cultural, non-religious events?" After a long debate, Chair Mills proposed that the Board members consider that question and the topic was readdressed at the October meeting. Board members expressed their opinions about the subject and the possibility of having representative(s) from the University's cultural centers in to talk to the Board about issues of mainstreaming and socialization for minority and international student athletes was proposed. SAAC rep Falger did some research and noted that Portland State University, in an effort to address some of these issues, has gone so far as to list individually which holidays and events PSU athletics recognizes as legitimate reasons for excused absences from athletics. The general consensus of the Board was that the need for a department-wide policy seemed unnecessary and such cases could be handled by the players and coaches. Additionally, since the Department has a pre-established appeal procedure, further disputes could be handled internally or by appeal to the Faculty Athletics Representative.

AD Jay Hinrichs delivered announcements of external and special events. Almost all UNC sports programs are either competing, practicing, or in some way active during this period. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, the annual Hall of Fame Dinner will be held, and six individuals and the 1997 National Championship Division II football team will be inducted. This year's Reverse Raffle, which funds student gifts and the annual Academic Awards Banquet will be held in November 16th. Hinrichs also outlined efforts being made to establish rivalries with neighboring Colorado State and University of Colorado in various sports and activities.

Chair Mills announced that the BOAC website ([www.unco.edu/BOAC](http://www.unco.edu/BOAC)) has been updated to reflect the new membership of the Board and recent meeting minutes. Mills then announced the next meeting would take place, November 26th, at 5:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at Jackson Field.

There being no further announcements or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Submitted by

Michael Mills, Chair