

Monthly Meeting of the Faculty Senate Athletic Committee (February 22, 2006)

Members present at the meeting

Eric Brey, Joan Cronan, Todd Diacon, Joel Diambra, Bethany Dumas, Mike Fitzgerald, Thomas Handler, Ron Pevey, Rex Pringle, Donna Thomas, John Venditti

Invited Guests

Timothy Rogers (Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs)

William Myers (Budget Director, Athletics-Men-Bus Office)

Summary of discussions and decisions

1. Alleged misconduct of student athletes (briefing by Timothy Rogers)

The procedure for handling alleged misconduct by student athletes is exactly the same as for any student of the University as outlined in the Hilltopics. A student athlete is neither entitled to nor receives any special consideration. A student athlete may, however, face additional penalties imposed by the concerned coach and/or the Athletic Director.

Mr. Rogers has never received a call pertaining misconduct by an athlete from the Athletic Directors, who are not required to report such alleged misconduct, but he receives plenty of such calls from the public and the media. Neither the Athletic Department nor Mr. Roger's office is ever the source of such news for the media.

2. Clarifications concerning the Athletics Department Budget (briefing by William Myers)

- (a) The total operating budget for the Athletics Department is ~\$65 million (for the fiscal year 2006?): Men's – \$42 million Women's – \$13 million; Debt payment \$ 8 million; and Contributions to the University – \$ 2 million.

The budget of ~\$13 million for the Women's Athletic Program includes \$1.18 million raised through the Lady Vols Booster Club and ~\$1 million from the student athletic fees..

The Athletics Department receives no funds from state subsidies or taxes.

- (b) The Athletic Department faced a budget deficit only last year. The deficit was \$1.4 million and had to be made up by borrowing funds from the UT system. Most of the loan, with interest, has been paid back and the rest will be cleared by the end of this fiscal year

The Athletic Department does not anticipate any deficit spending this fiscal year. In fact, it anticipates a small profit.

- (c) The debt burden of the Athletic Department right now is ~10% of its budget, 12.3% if the debt for the new parking garage is also included.
- (d) VASF now stands for “Vols Athletics and Scholarship Fund” (instead of “Vols Athletics Scholarship Fund”). The change was made on the recommendation of the Faculty Senate last year to reflect more closely how these funds are actually spent.
- (e) Proposals regarding renovations and construction of athletic facilities are initiated by the Athletic Department, but the final decision rests with the President of the UT System and the State Building Commission.
- (f) The UT System subsidizes the Athletics Department by providing several categories of free service — pay-roll management, accounting, general counsel, etc. (but not utilities). An analysis of the cost of such subsidies has never been done.
- (g) For fiscal year 2005, \$14.76 million was raised through VASF, out of which only \$14.282 could be spent on athletic items (the balance of \$0.478 million could be spent only on academic scholarships (even though ticket benefits were provided for raising this money as part of VASF) and, as such, was used to pay part of Athletic Department’s academic scholarship commitment.

(h) The \$14,282 million was spent as follows:

Scholarships for men and women student athletes	– \$6.48 million
Scholarships (for whom?)	– \$195,000
Scholarships for managers and trainers ???	– \$450,000
Academic support (Thornton Academic Center)	– \$1.8 million
Remaining funds for operation	– \$5.357 million

(i) The Athletic Department offered 255 full scholarships for Fall, 2005 — 141.2 for men at a cost of \$3.557 million and 117 for women at a cost of \$2.923 million.

Total for student athlete scholarships = \$3.557 million + 2.923 million = \$6.48 million.

3. Graduation rates of student athletes at UTK

Eric Brey handed out a package of histograms comparing graduation rates of UTK student athletes with the graduation rates at other schools. This will be an item of discussion in the next meeting of the Committee

4. Admission Policy pertaining to student athletes

Misra will contact Richard Bayer (Dean, Enrollment Services) and request him to discuss the Committee about the salient points of this policy at its next meeting.

5. Next meeting of the Committee

April 12, 2006, Wednesday, 11:15 AM — Thornton Center. (No meeting of the Committee in March because of scheduling problems.)

Kula C. Misra

P.S. Richard Bayer (Dean, Enrollment Services) has kindly agreed to participate in the Committee's meeting on April 12.