

A Resolution¹ on Shared Governance in Intercollegiate Athletics

First Draft: Monday, April 5, 2010

Whereas, Ohio University is committed to maintaining a FBS (formerly called Division 1-A) intercollegiate athletics program;² and,

Whereas, financial and other systemic challenges facing intercollegiate athletics across the country will require collaborative and creative actions to protect institutions from skyrocketing subsidy of these programs;³ and,

Whereas, maintaining the academic integrity of the student-athlete experience is the responsibility of faculty, coaches, and administration; and,

Whereas, Ohio University has a standing committee, called the “Intercollegiate Athletics Committee,” (IAC) charged with assisting the President, Provost, Director of Athletics, and the NCAA Faculty Athletics representatives in the interpretation and implementation of athletic policies; therefore,

Be it resolved by the Ohio University Faculty Senate that Intercollegiate Athletics should have meaningful oversight from and collaboration with faculty from across the university.⁴

¹ This resolution is adapted, in part, from a “model resolution” issued jointly by the UC Berkeley Faculty Senate, the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA), and The Drake Group. Ohio University Faculty Senate is a member of COIA.

² The document titled, “Academic Support Units,” linked off of the Provost’s website states that the university will maintain Division 1-A status to maintain potential for revenue generation by ICA and to maintain competitive advantage against Miami, Cincinnati, Ohio State, Akron, Bowling Green and Kent (all are D 1-A schools). See www.ohiou.edu/provost/Budget-Process.cfm

³ See “Sports Subsidies Soar” article in *Inside Higher Education*, January 19, 2010. Data reported in that article showed that Ohio University’s Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, when compared to other FBS universities, receives the 4th highest subsidy (approximately 75.02% of the ICA budget) from the University Operating Budget. In the top 21 programs for subsidy of Intercollegiate Athletics, 10 of those were Mid American Conference Schools.

⁴ The “Academic Support Units” document advances several arguments supporting the contention that Intercollegiate Athletics and Academics are strongly connected. Those arguments include: (1) Intercollegiate athletics “enriches the university experience...for all students in that it gives another framework for understanding excellence and witnessing the lessons of teamwork;” (2) There are “significant academic connections” between ICA, Sports Management, and Athletic Training; (3)

Be it further resolved that the following changes be made to the composition and mission of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee:

Section 1: Composition. Current composition of the IAC is 16 members.⁵ Although the 16 members reflects the diversity of interests involved, the even split (7-7) between faculty and members representing other constituencies does not reflect the academic mission of ICA. To better reflect the connection between ICA and academics, the following steps will be undertaken:

1. The chairperson of the committee shall be appointed by the President and shall be selected from the list of faculty recommended by the Committee on Committees and selected by the President.
2. There is currently no process describing selection of the two NCAA faculty representatives. During the 2010-2011 academic year the IAC shall recommend to the President a process through which those representatives should be nominated and appointed. The committee shall also recommend appropriate lengths of appointment for those representatives.
3. The number of representatives recommended by Administrative Senate and appointed by the President for 3-year terms will be reduced from 2 to 1. This change will ensure that a majority of voting members will be faculty, which is more consistent with other committees overseeing academic activities.
4. Current language specifying ex-officio, non-voting members could be perceived as sexist because the implication is that the Director of Athletics is a Male. Language should be altered to say that: "Two members of Intercollegiate Athletics administration, one female and one male, will be appointed as ex-officio, non-voting members."

Section 2: Charge of the Committee. The charge of the committee is quite broad and is "concerned with all facets of Intercollegiate Athletics at Ohio University. Policies and procedures pertaining to athletics are under the jurisdiction of the Committee subject to approval of the President" Such activities include but are not limited to: campus relations, academic compliance, ICA governance, and student-athlete welfare. In addition to the general activities of the committee already specified, the function of the committee will be clarified to include the following:

1. The committee will review and make a recommendation on the yearly budget for Intercollegiate Athletics. The Committee will make their official recommendation to University administration for final approval.

Competitive athletics and academics both draw on "the same deep wells of human possibility;" and, (4) Both ICA and academics "contribute significantly to those intangible elements that build passion for and loyalty to an institution."

⁵ The IAC is a standing committee of the University. For a complete description of the committee membership and charge, see

<http://www.ohio.edu/facultysenate/standingcomm/ICA-Committee-page.cfm>

2. The Committee will review and approve practice schedules for all sports.
3. The Committee will review and approve travel schedules for any ICA activity that will require student-athletes to miss class.

Section 3: Specific Objectives for Academics. As the committee carries out its mission, the Faculty recommends the following:

1. In order to maintain academics as the top priority for all students, those students who also participate in intercollegiate athletics will maintain a G.P.A. of 2.0 to be approved for participation.
2. The Director of Athletics, working in conjunction with the IAC, will present a yearly report to Faculty Senate on the activities of student-athletes. The report should also describe efforts undertaken to promote the physical, academic, and personal welfare of student-athletes.
3. The Committee will review and approve practice schedules for all sports. In principle practices should not be scheduled during 9:00a.m. and 3:00 p.m. because those are the times in which most courses are scheduled.
4. Advising and academic support for student athletes will be integrated with other academic support services receiving oversight from the Provost's office.

Section 4: Specific Objectives for Finances. Given the financial complexity of ICA, the Faculty recommends:

1. The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics shall present a balanced budget each year, detailing all sources of revenue and all proposed expenditures.
2. If the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics runs a deficit at the end of a fiscal year, steps taken to cover the deficit should be approved by the President and reported to the campus community and Board of Trustees.
3. The Athletic Budget will be integrated with the Academic Budget and will follow the same processes and procedures as academic units.
4. A yearly report will be sent to Student Senate and Graduate Student Senate explaining the approximate dollar amount that each student pays in fees that are used to support Intercollegiate Athletics.