

Report of the Faculty Athletics Representative  
2 March 2016

As with all Division 1 NCAA institutions, U of L student-athletes as well as faculty, athletics administrators, staff, and presidents are weighing in on the question of how we can better balance academics (and the full collegiate experience) with the time demands of playing intercollegiate athletics. To that end, the NCAA is launching a survey that will be available to all constituencies in order to gather ideas and consider options for easing the time demands, some of which might be comprehensive or flexible enough to apply sport by sport. Our faculty athletics oversight committee (CAP) will be introduced to this nationwide survey at our next meeting and will enter its voice in the discussion of student-athlete time demands.

CAP will also study the results of a study conducted by our own Office of Institutional Research, one which tracks courses in which student-athletes comprise 10% or more of the students enrolled. We are interested in discovering if there is any significant difference in the grades of student-athletes and non-student-athletes in those classes, and are studying the factors that contribute to student-athlete selection of on-line courses as opposed to in person classes. All ACC institutions are trying to determine if there is a tendency for student-athletes to “cluster” in specific courses and majors. Of course, some majors are inherently attractive to student-athletes (Health and Human Performance, Communications, and etc.), and student-athlete choices are limited by competition schedules and practice time schedules, but we want to be sure that our student-athletes are able to declare and pursue the major of choice and are able to take the classes required for those majors.

In the months to come, I will report to you on the progress of both projects.

In closing, I am happy to report to you that three of our student-athletes have been selected to receive \$5000 ACC Postgraduate Scholarships for professional or graduate study, based on their excellence in the classroom and in their respective sports as well as for their community service. They are Luis “Jerry” Ramirez, Men’s Soccer; Andrea Kneppers, Women’s Swimming, and Laura Restrepo, Women’s Golf. Katie Mitchell, Women’s Golf, has received an ACC Honorary Award. All four will be honored at the ACC Scholar-Athlete banquet in Greensboro in April. Too, one of our faculty was honored by our Red and Black scholar athletes (3.25 plus cumulative GPA) at the annual Red and Black Luncheon (January 31) as Faculty Mentor of the Year—Adrienne Bratcher (Exercise Physiology). Also, in January, our Men’s Baseball team was named as the #1 athletic team in the country (across all sports and divisions) in Community Service—with 2600 hours logged. Congratulations to all!

Elaine

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