

Boston College

Athletics Advisory Board Annual Report, 2014-15

This Report is intended to summarize for the University community both the major developments related to Boston College's intercollegiate athletics program and the Athletics Advisory Board's (AAB) activities during the preceding academic year.

1. The Year's Academic and Athletic Highlights

A. ACC Academic Collaboration

The Academic Collaborative among Atlantic Coast Conference Universities (ACCAC) sponsored its tenth year of initiatives, with full participation by BC students. The ACCAC currently makes available each year advanced study thesis research grants to undergraduate students at member schools through its Creativity and Innovation program, as well as summer research grants to support undergraduates from one ACC school who wish to conduct research on the campus of another ACC school.

The tenth annual "Meeting of the Minds" conference, designed to showcase undergraduate research at member institutions, was held at North Carolina State University, April 10-12, 2015. The Student Leadership Symposium, which brings together teams of five to ten student leaders from each ACC university to discuss specific social topics, was held this year at the University of Notre Dame, February 27 – March 1. This year's theme was "Inspiring Inclusion, Creating Community, Launching Leaders."

Other ACCAC activities this past year included a student Debate Championship, held at Wake Forest University, April 10-12, 2015, a student Federal Relations trip to Washington, D.C., and an ACC Distinguished Lecturer Program, which supports ACC universities in hosting one of five chosen faculty members from other ACC schools at a distinguished lecturer event. This past year, BC Professor of History Robin Fleming was chosen as one the ACC's five distinguished lecturers.

B. Academic Achievements of Individual BC Student-Athletes

Several BC student-athletes were recognized this year for their academic and athletic achievements and their potential for future graduate study. Alicia McKean (Rowing), Mikaela Rix (Lacrosse) and Michael Sit (Men's Ice Hockey) were awarded ACC Postgraduate Scholarships for distinguished achievement in academics, athletics and community service. They were honored at the annual ACC Scholarship Banquet in Greensboro, NC, on April 15, 2015. Twenty-eight BC student-athletes were named to the ACC All-Academic teams in their sports, and Liv Westphal was named ACC Women's Cross Country Scholar-Athlete of the Year for 2014. A total of 416 BC student-athletes were named to the ACC's Academic Honor Roll for maintaining a grade point average of 3.0 or better for the entire academic year. In ice hockey, 5 BC student-athletes from the men's team and 14 from the women's team were named to the Hockey East All-Academic teams.

C. NCAA Measures of Student-Athlete Academic Progress

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) continues to use two measures of academic achievement as part of its Academic Performance Program (APP). These are the Academic Progress Rate (APR) and the Graduation Success Rate (GSR), and they are applied at each NCAA Division I member school for all student-athletes who receive athletically-related financial aid.

The APR looks at the eligibility, retention and graduation of all athletically-aided student-athletes (and, for teams that do not award athletic aid, all recruited student-athletes). The APR awards 1 point for each student-athlete who is academically eligible to compete in the next semester and an additional point if that student-athlete returns to school for the next semester. For the academic year, therefore, each student-athlete could receive a maximum of four points for the fall and spring semesters. The APR compares the total number of points actually received in a given year to the maximum total points.

The primary use of the APR measure is on a team-by-team, rather than an overall institutional basis. The NCAA has imposed a cutoff APR of 925 (i.e., 92.5% of the maximum total points), and any school with a team whose four-year average APR falls below that level in its sport may be subject to penalties in the form of reduction of the maximum allowable financial aid for that sport, or in some cases ineligibility for postseason competition. Based on the most recent data, none of BC's teams were subject to these penalties. In addition, 12 of BC's teams received public recognition from the NCAA for having an APR among the top 10% of Division I institutions sponsoring that sport, and 10 BC teams recorded perfect APR scores of 1000.

The second measure of academic performance used by the NCAA is the Graduation Success Rate (GSR), which measures the percentage of student-athletes entering an institution who graduate from that institution, excluding students who transfer to another institution while still academically eligible to compete at their initial institution. The latest data available cover students entering college in 2004, '05, '06 and '07. For Boston College student-athletes overall, the four-class average GSR was 95%, compared to a GSR of 82% for all Division I institutions combined. Fourteen of the varsity sports that BC currently sponsors achieved the highest possible GSR of 100%. Further details on APR and GSR for individual sports and other NCAA schools can be found at www.ncaa.org, under Division I/Academics.

D. Student-Athlete Community Service

Annually, most BC student-athletes take part in any of a large number of community service activities, organized through BC's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). These include visiting the Franciscan Children's Hospital, volunteering at the Boston Food Bank's Food for Families program, and visiting elementary schools through the Help Educate through Athletic Responsibility (HEAR) program. For the sixth year, a group of BC student-athletes, 17 this year, were chosen to participate in the Devlin S-AFE Service Immersion trip to New Orleans to help with the continuing rebuilding effort following Hurricane Katrina. The trip occurred during the January portion of Christmas break.

E. Athletic Program Highlights

BC teams achieved considerable success on the playing field during the past year. In the fall, senior Liv Westphal won the ACC women's cross country race, was named ACC Women's Cross Country performer of the year and, for the second straight year, earned All-American honors. The field hockey team was selected for the NCAA tournament for the second consecutive year. Senior Emma Plasteras was named first-team All-ACC and first-team All-American, while juniors Leah Settipane and Romée Stiekema were named to the All-ACC second team. The football team won 7 games and earned an invitation to the Pinstripe Bowl in New York City. Graduate student Andy Gallik was named to the All-ACC second team, while his classmate Bobby Vardaro was named to the All-ACC third team, along with seniors Josh Keyes and Connor Wujciak and freshman Jon Hilliman. In fall sailing, junior Erika Reineke won the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association's (ICSA) Women's Singlehanded National Championship for the third consecutive year. She is only the fourth collegiate sailor to win three such championships and the first to do so in her first three years of competition. She was later named All-American and New England Inter-Collegiate Sailor of the Year. In women's soccer, senior Stephanie McCaffrey was named to the All-ACC first team for the second straight year, while junior Hayley Dowd was named to second team and Allyson Swaby was named to the All-ACC Freshman team. In men's soccer, sophomore Zeiko Lewis was selected for the All-ACC second team.

In the winter, men's basketball's Olivier Hanlan led the conference in scoring and was named to the All-ACC first team. He was later chosen male Eagle of the Year. In women's fencing, junior Olivia Adranga and sophomore Renee Bichette were chosen to compete in the NCAA Championship, and Adranga was named ACC Co-Women's Fencer of the Year for Epée. The men's ice hockey team was selected for the NCAA tournament for the 16th time in the last 18 years. Freshman Noah Hanifin was named to Hockey East All-Star second team, and along with classmate Alex Tuch, was also chosen for the Hockey East All-Rookie team. Senior Michael Sit won Hockey East's Len Ceglarski Individual Sportsmanship Award. The women's ice hockey team ran up a 24-game winning streak on its way to a program-record 34-win season. The team was selected for the NCAA tournament, where it advanced to the Frozen Four for the fourth time in the past five years. Junior Alex Carpenter and senior Emily Pfalzer were named to the Hockey East All-Star first time, while junior Lexi Bender, freshman Katie Burt and junior Haley Skarupa were named to the second team. Pfalzer also won the Hockey East Best Defenseman Award, while Burt was the Hockey East Goaltending Champion and Carpenter the conference Scoring Champion. Head Coach Katie King Crowley was selected as Hockey East Coach of the Year while Carpenter was chosen as the conference Player of the Year. Carpenter and Pfalzer earned first-team All-American honors, and Bender and Skarupa were named to the second team. Emily Pfalzer was later selected female Eagle of the year and was Hockey East's nominee for the NCAA Woman of the Year Award. Alex Carpenter won the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award as the nation's outstanding women's hockey player, the first player in program history to do so. In Women's Indoor Track and Field, Liv Westphal qualified to compete in both the 3,000 and 5,000 meter races at the NCAA Indoor Championship, and her performance there earned her second-team All-American honors.

In the spring, junior Chris Shaw was named to the All-ACC Baseball second team as well as third-team All-American. In women's golf, senior Cristina McQuiston played to a program-high eighth-place finish at the ACC Tournament. The lacrosse team earned a place in the NCAA

Tournament field for the third year in a row. Seniors Mikaela Rix and Covie Stanwick and junior Sarah Mannelly were chosen for the All-ACC first team, while junior Caroline Margolis was selected for the second team. In addition, Mannelly and Stanwick were named first-team All-Americans, and Rix was named to the second team. In sailing, seniors Will Bailey, Elizabeth Barnard and Katherine Wysocki and junior Raul Rios earned All-American honors. And in women's outdoor track and field, Liv Westphal's eighth-place finish in the NCAA 5,000 meter race made her a first-team All American.

2. AAB Activities during 2014-15

A. AAB Monthly Meetings

Our guests this year included three representatives from the BC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC); Director of Athletics Brad Bates; Director of University Health Services and Sports Medicine Dr. Thomas Nary; Learning Resources for Student-Athletes (LRSA) Assistant Directors Lee Metzger and Clare Morrison; and Head Coaches Chris Campbell (Volleyball), Kelly Doton (Field Hockey) and Jerry York (Men's Ice Hockey).

The AAB's monthly meetings this year ranged across a wide variety of issues. These included changes in the NCAA's governance structure and legislative processes and their potential impact on the cost of sponsoring a major intercollegiate athletics program; student-athlete welfare issues, including time demands, health and safety, class scheduling and the practice of scheduling make-up exams during travel for competition; the role of the athletics program in the larger university; and BC's possible membership in the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA).

At our first meeting in October, AAB Chair Bob Taggart updated the group on two important NCAA developments. First, at the time of the AAB meeting, the NCAA was considering a proposal to revamp its governance structure and to allow five of the Division I athletic conferences (Atlantic Coast Conference, Big 10, Big 12, Pacific 12 and Southeastern Conference) autonomy to formulate their own legislation on such issues as athletic scholarship enhancements and increased medical benefits for student-athletes. One such potential scholarship enhancement would allow schools in the "Autonomy 5" conferences to offer athletic scholarships that covered up to the full amount of the Federally-defined "Cost of Attendance (COA)." The second development was a class action antitrust lawsuit brought against the NCAA by former UCLA basketball player Ed O'Bannon and a group of former student-athletes in the sports of men's basketball and football. At the time of the October AAB meeting, the judge in the case had recently ruled in favor of O'Bannon and had ordered the NCAA to allow schools to offer athletic scholarships that covered up to the full COA. The judge further ordered that schools should be allowed to place up to \$5,000 per student-athlete in these two sports per year into a trust fund, to be made available to the student-athletes after graduation, to compensate them for the use of their "names, images and likenesses" while competing in intercollegiate athletics¹. The group discussed its concerns about the potential cost implications of these two

¹ Since the October, 2014, AAB meeting, NCAA member schools approved the proposed governance structure at its January, 2015, annual convention, and the "Autonomy 5" conferences voted to allow

developments for BC's future support of its athletics program. The group then talked about possible future meeting topics and guests for the 2014 – 15 year.

Our November meeting was attended by three representatives from BC's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) from the sports of baseball, cross country and track and rowing. While expressing general satisfaction with their overall BC experience, they did cite a number of challenges faced by student-athletes. Among these were arranging with faculty to make up exams or other assignments that had to be missed because of travel for competition, juggling course schedules with athletic commitments, and the difficult transition during freshman year to both college-level academics and varsity sports. The students recommended that academic departments be encouraged to alternate the scheduling of core classes and major requirements between morning time blocks in one semester and afternoon time blocks in another to better allow student-athletes to satisfy their academic requirements and still work around team practice schedules. They also felt that a broader array of summer course offerings would be helpful to student-athletes in meeting their academic requirements.

The student-athletes did cite the Athletic Department's Student-Athlete Development initiative, under the leadership of Alison Quandt, as very helpful in getting them to focus on possible future careers. They said that membership in SAAC had been another positive experience that had broadened their horizons. And they commended the Athletics Department's effort to promote a community atmosphere among all student-athletes, right from the beginning of their freshman years.

Director of Athletics Brad Bates attended our December meeting. Brad began by summarizing some athletic highlights of the fall season but also acknowledged that a disappointment had been the necessity to replace the turf surface on the Newton soccer field earlier than scheduled, forcing some scheduled home contests to be relocated to off-campus sites.

Brad also expressed concern over the budgetary implications of recent and proposed changes to NCAA legislation. Recent legislation had afforded schools greater flexibility to give food to student-athletes, and Brad estimated that, if fully used, this flexibility could add costs of approximately three-quarters of a million dollars per year to broad-based athletics programs such as BC's. In addition, he expressed reservations about the impending (since adopted, as noted in Footnote 1) full-COA scholarship legislation before the Autonomy 5 schools, not only because of its cost implications, but also because he thought the discretion that has been built into the Federal COA formula would give some schools the means to gain a recruiting advantage from the way they set their COA. On the revenue side of the budget, Brad said that the Athletics Department's Communication, Marketing, Ticket Sales and Development functions were in the process of being reorganized so as to better integrate all revenue-raising initiatives. He also expressed satisfaction with the recent "Gold Pass" rewards program for BC student ticket sales, and he hoped that similar rewards programs could also be developed for other customer groups.

scholarships that covered up to full COA. The O'Bannon ruling was appealed by the NCAA, and as of the time of this report, a decision from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit is still being awaited.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of the role of BC's athletic program in the larger University. Brad said he thought that BC could serve as a role model for the effective integration of high-level athletics within a top-tier academic program. To maintain credibility in this role, he said that it would be necessary to demonstrate a certain level of success not only academically but in athletics as well. He also asked the group for suggestions on better promoting a partnership between athletics and academics at BC. Some suggestions were the inclusion of athletics program staff in the activities of Intersections and the Office of Student Formation, naming faculty advisors for each varsity team and recognizing faculty awards and honors during athletic contests, either in person or on the video boards.

The AAB held its annual review of practice and competition schedules for all varsity teams at the February meeting. Prior to this meeting, AAB members identify those class time blocks (e.g., Monday-Wednesday-Friday at 8, 9, 10 and 11 AM or 12, 1, 2, 3, and 4 PM or Tuesday-Thursday at 9 and 10:30 AM and 12, 1:30, 3 and 4:30 PM) that a given team's practice schedule leaves open for taking classes. Available class time blocks are then compared to the team's competition schedule to see which class time blocks would entail less than two full weeks of missed class (e.g., 5 or fewer missed classes in a Monday-Wednesday-Friday time block or 3 or fewer missed classes in a Tuesday-Thursday time block). Some sports tend to pose class scheduling challenges for student-athletes every year, primarily because of a large number of contests in the sport and frequent travel. These include volleyball in the fall, and baseball and softball in the spring. These challenges are mitigated somewhat by the fact that competition in each of these sports occurs entirely during one semester, leaving the other semester for team members to pick up needed classes they may have had to forgo during the competition semester. Other sports stretch across both semesters, but they vary in terms of course scheduling challenges. In fencing, ice hockey and swimming, for example, competition tends to be on the weekend, and travel is primarily local, so missed class time is not too much of an issue. In other sports, however, long travel distances and multi-day competition can make it necessary to miss a number of classes. This past year, this was true of men's golf and women's tennis in the fall, and women's golf and men's and women's track in the spring. In golf and track, the situation is alleviated somewhat by the fact that the entire team roster does not necessarily make every trip. AAB members did note that increasing numbers of BC classes are offered in nontraditional time blocks (e.g. once per week in the late afternoon or evening). Some of these time blocks afford additional flexibility to student-athletes trying to balance class scheduling with their practice and competition schedules.

Dr. Thomas Nary, Boston College Director of University Health Services and Sports Medicine, was our guest for the first portion of the AAB's March meeting. First, Dr. Nary described two different models for delivering student-athlete health care. At some universities, the system for student-athletes is entirely separate from the university health care system for other students, while at others, such as BC, student-athlete health care is more integrated into the overall University Health Services system. He said that, while NCAA legislation stipulates that certain health care services must be available to student-athletes, universities have considerable latitude as to how those services are delivered. Second, he talked about health insurance for student-athletes. All U.S university students must have health insurance, and universities are required to make a health insurance option available, but many students choose to be covered under their families' plans. If a student-athlete is injured in an activity connected to his or her sport, health insurance covers those costs stipulated by the policy and BC covers any remaining costs. However, if a student-athlete is injured or becomes ill as a result of activities unrelated to

varsity sports, his or her family is responsible for any costs not covered by insurance, as is the case with non-athlete students. BC does not offer student-athletes an option for higher levels of coverage than are available to students in general, but the NCAA does make available a catastrophic injury plan to student-athletes who wish to purchase it. Next, the discussion turned to drug use and drug testing. Dr. Nary said he did not believe that drug use was more prevalent among student-athletes than in the general student population. The NCAA requires that schools have regular drug-testing procedures in place, but the NCAA also visits schools and championship sites on a random basis to conduct its own tests. Finally, the topic of concussions was discussed. Dr. Nary described BC's concussion protocols, which conform to NCAA guidelines. He also cautioned that, while some concussions are easily diagnosed, some are not, as symptoms sometimes appear only after some delay.

In the second portion of the March meeting, AAB members Kathy Bailey and Mike Malec reported on their February trip to the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) annual meeting, the primary theme of which was academic integrity among student-athletes. Kathy and Mike said they found the meeting sessions to be informative, thought-provoking and representative of a variety of points of view. Following their report, AAB members unanimously voted to recommend to Provost David Quigley that BC become a member of COIA.

The AAB held two meetings in April. At the first, we were hosted in the Learning Resources for Student-Athletes (LRSA) offices by Assistant Directors Lee Metzger and Clare Morrison. Lee and Clare distributed some data indicating a growing trend toward student-athletes taking proctored exams during travel for competition. For example, 111 such exams had been administered during 2011-12, while, as of the time of the meeting, the number had grown to 278 thus far in 2014-15. This trend has given rise to a number of problems, some of which were pointed out to the AAB last year by Men's Track and Field Head Coach Matt Kerr at our March, 2014, meeting. The problems include a shortage of free time on the road, team hotels that may lack adequate space for a make-up exam, and the problem of finding appropriate proctors. Coaches have at least the appearance of a conflict of interest, and the Athletics Compliance office would prefer that they not be proctoring exams during travel. However, it is not feasible for LRSA to send a staff member on every road trip that might entail one or more make-up exams for team members. In light of these problems, AAB members agreed to forward two recommendations to the Office of the Provost: (1) Beginning with the next academic year, 2015-16, make-up exams for BC student-athletes should not be allowed during travel for competition; and (2) The University should make plans for providing and staffing a University testing center, where all BC students could go to take make-up exams.

The meeting concluded with some discussion of whether or not student-athletes tend to "cluster" in certain majors or sections of classes. During 2009, the AAB had previously examined some data from the Office of Institutional Research, suggesting that the distribution of student-athletes across majors is not markedly different from that of the overall BC student body. The distribution of student-athletes across particular class sections was not previously examined and could be a topic for future data-gathering and discussion.

Guests at our second April meeting were BC Head Coaches Chris Campbell (Volleyball), Kelly Doton (Field Hockey) and Jerry York (Men's Ice Hockey). The coaches said they feel that the relationship between academics and athletics is generally positive at BC. Chris said that student-

athletes come here knowing they are expected to excel in both areas, and Kelly said that student-athletes generally take pride in representing their teams in the classroom. The coaches also said the fact that student-athletes don't have to sacrifice academics to athletics can be an important selling point in recruiting.

The question of whether student-athletes have difficulty balancing course scheduling with academics led to a brief discussion of priority registration for student-athletes, which BC does not have. The override system was discussed as an alternative means for resolving scheduling issues, and Jerry said that his team members had been able to make good use of evening classes to work around scheduling issues. The need for some teams to travel from the main campus to practice or to share facilities with other teams can also create some scheduling issues, but the coaches expressed general satisfaction with BC's athletics facilities and thought that their student-athletes had been able to adjust to the constraints. In cases where student-athletes do run into academic problems, the coaches said that LRSA has been very helpful.

Finally, the discussion turned to faculty perceptions of the BC athletic program. Some AAB members felt that the money involved in big-time college sports or the association between campus athletic events and student alcohol use gave rise to negative perceptions on the part of some faculty members. However AAB members also cited a recent LRSA reception in which strong students from each of BC's varsity teams were asked to invite a faculty member who had meant a lot to them as a good example of how to get faculty to understand the full range of many student-athletes' accomplishments. A lunch series organized by AAB member Kathy Bailey in conjunction with the Provost's Office, in which faculty members and academic administrators get together for informal discussion with coaches and athletics administrators, was also seen as a way to foster understanding between the academic and athletic sides of BC.

B. Committee Composition

At the beginning of the year, the AAB welcomed newly-elected member Michael Malec (Sociology), as well as newly-appointed member Joe Burns (Provost's Office) At the end of the academic year, Richard Jackson (LSOE) and Bob Murphy (Economics) completed their elected terms on the Board, and Stacey Barone (CSOM) and Tracy Regan (Economics) were elected to new three-year terms, beginning June 2015.

Please feel free to seek out any AAB member with questions and concerns you may have. One of the Board's primary functions is to serve as a channel for communication between the academic and athletics programs, and we are always open to your questions or other input.

The Athletics Advisory Board, 2014-15:

Kathleen Bailey (Political Science)	John J. Burns (Office of the Provost)
Michael Cassidy (Law)	Donald Fishman (Communication)
Burton Howell (Intersections)	Richard Jackson (LSOE)
Michael Malec (Sociology)	Robert Murphy (Economics)
Robert Taggart (CSOM, AAB Chair and Faculty Athletics Representative)	