

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

SENATE ASSEMBLY

Minutes of Regular Meeting of 17 May 1982

ATTENDANCE

Present: Aberbach, Bailey, Barnard, Barritt, Bishop, Blass, Brooks, Brown, Burdi, Carter, Catford, Cooper, Dahl, Danielson, Easley, Esteban, Hagen, Hilbert, Hopwood, Janecke, Kelsey, Ludema, Maassab, Martin, Meyer, Moerman, Morash, Mosher, Nadon-Garbrion, Powell, Regezi, Ringler, Robinson, Root, Simon, Smith, Solomon, Stevenson, Whitehouse

Absent: Barald, Beck, Briggs, Browne, Bulkley, Caffesse, Crowfoot, Cassidy, Courant, Crane, Evans, Abdel-Massih, Fellin, Green, Grosse, Haddock, Hildebrandt, Hollinger, Hultquist, Kahn, Kaplan, Keren, Knudsvig, Lawrence, Lockwood, Loup, Nagy, O'Meara, Pollock, Rae, Rinne, Rucknagel, Senior, Tentler, Weiner, Wieland, Young

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Professor Bishop, chairman, at 3:20 p.m. The minutes of the meeting of 19 April, 1982, were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Copies of the proposed hazing policy were distributed to the Assembly. The policy consists of the statement approved by the Assembly plus background material. Professor Bishop announced that, unless there are objections, the policy will be considered by other appropriate bodies, including ultimately the Regents. There were no objections.

2. Professor Bishop introduced Judith Nowack, executive assistant to SACUA, and Professor Blass, Senate Secretary.

MATTERS ARISING

Professor Barritt asked for information about two of the topics that SACUA discussed with the executive officers: review of the

athletic program and tenure promotions in units under review. Professor Bishop said that the information given to SACUA by the executive officers is confidential. In connection with promotions in units under review, he said that SACUA and the Tenure Committee are exploring alternatives to the policy presently in effect and that negotiations are continuing. Professor Brown added that SACUA is attempting to ensure that faculty in reviewed units receive the usual consideration with respect to tenure reviews.

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS - THOMAS ANTON AND GWENDOLYN CRUZAT

Professor Anton said that he welcomed this opportunity to address the Assembly, since he is the main connection between the Big Ten Conference and the faculty. The conference is based on faculty control of athletics.

He reported on the situation arising from the conference's decision last year that a University of Illinois athlete is ineligible. A part of the court decision is being appealed to the United States Supreme Court, where a ruling in favor of the conference would end the matter; if the ruling is unfavorable, there will be a trial in about six months. Meanwhile, the University of Illinois has increased faculty (and decreased alumni) representation on its athletic board and has raised eligibility standards. In view of these developments, the conference will reconsider Illinois's probation in June.

Professor Anton also reported that the conference has been integrating women into its programs, both by sponsoring women's championships and by bringing women into the conference governance system. Women are now represented on all but two of its seven committees and the Rules Committee.

He also discussed the enormous revenues being generated by athletics. He reported that the NCAA has a \$260 million contract with ABC and CBS for football and that the Big Ten Conference has a \$12 million contract with the Metromedia Sports for two years of basketball. He said that such sums of money lead to problems and that his earlier optimism about reconciling such revenues with high quality academic programs now seems unrealistic. The NCAA now has 17 schools on probation and 35 more under investigation. He urged Assembly members to read the NCAA press release on penalties imposed on the University of Southern California; he believes that the decade-long administrative malfeasance reported there is a natural result of the huge amounts of money involved.

He said that most people in the conference agree that we must soon decide whether to operate programs with academic integrity for athletes or to drop all pretenses in this direction and view athletic

programs as professional training. A joint committee of the Big Ten and PAC Ten Conferences will recommend to the next NCAA convention that entrance level grade point average requirements be raised and that certain test results or high school class rank be considered in determining athletes' eligibility. These matters must be discussed vigorously if the academic side of the athletic program is not to be washed away in a tide of money.

Professor Cruzat said that she agreed with Professor Anton's comments and had little to add to them. She did report, however, on some of the problems she perceives in the integration of women into the Big Ten conference. Four groups are involved in this process: the faculty representatives, the alternate representatives, the women's program group (which meets with the representatives in December and May), and the athletic directors. (Iowa and Minnesota have separate athletic directors for men's and women's sports). The transition group's recommendations on reorganization give committee seats to institutions, which somewhat decreases faculty control. Professor Cruzat felt that a lot of time was wasted at the last Big Ten meeting; the conference's executive officers will try to improve this situation. She also felt that the faculty representatives operate reactively (e.g., to the women's program group or the athletic directors) rather than initiating solutions to problems. The Rules Committee may help rectify this.

DISCUSSION

Professor Richard Bailey said that recent articles in the Michigan Daily and an article by Admissions Director Sjogren in the Detroit Free Press about special treatment of athletes indicate that some disclosures about academic standards for athletes are imminent. He asked how the Board in Control of Intercollegiate Athletics enforces academic standards. He also asked whether the Board has discussed how the huge new revenues are to be allocated between revenue-producing sports and others.

In reply to the first question, Professor Anton said that the nine faculty members of the Board, along with the faculty representative, the academic counselors of the men's and women's programs, and a representative of the registrar, constitute the Committee on Academic Performance, which is responsible for enforcing academic standards. This committee meets with any athlete who, though eligible by conference standards, fails to meet Michigan's standard (a 2.0 GPA). It has a fair amount of latitude and has in the past encouraged or required such students to take a term off, to enter a special program of study, to receive counseling, etc. Recently, the committee

has also tried to better coordinate recruitment activities and admissions policies. It has discussed with the registrar's office and will discuss with the Vice President for Academic Affairs ways to improve the performance of poorly prepared student athletes. Professor Anton also reported that 80 to 90 percent of student athletes (but perhaps only 60 to 70 percent of football and hockey players) graduate in normal time.

To Professor Bailey's second question, Professor Cruzat replied that the new revenue is likely to be used just to keep up with rising costs. The Board in Control is trying to cut costs in all sports, not just some. Professor Anton mentioned several universities (Colorado, Indiana, Houston, Ohio State) that are dropping one or more varsity sports.

Professor Barritt asked whether the faculty representatives would welcome a budget review of the athletic program. Professor Anton had no objection, though he said he could not speak for the rest of the board. He warned, however, against the temptation to use athletic revenues to subsidize other units, since this could increase the pressure for winning teams.

Professor Burdi asked whether Big Ten schools other than Illinois have made changes in their Boards in Control, in particular the chairmanship of the boards. Professor Anton was not aware of any such changes but said that Iowa has recommended an examination of its athletic governance. He also said that Michigan is the only Big Ten School whose Board in Control is chaired by the athletic director; the Board of Regents seems happy with this system.

Professor Barritt asked about Michigan's position on the AIAW and the NCAA's effort to put it out of business. Professor Anton replied that, despite Michigan's support for the AIAW (and that of the other Big Ten schools), it lost. The only issue at the June meeting of the AIAW will be how to dissolve it. Professor Cruzat said that almost all women's programs currently operate under AIAW rules but will join the NCAA this September, although they could have waited until 1985.

Professor Barritt asked whether equality for women means big time athletics for women. Professor Cruzat said that the conference is trying to compromise between NCAA and AIAW rules. Professor Anton answered Professor Barritt's question affirmatively. He said that the move to the NCAA will force a higher level of competition, requiring a higher level of support, and increasing the pressure to generate more revenue. Professor Cruzat said that this pressure is being resisted by the women's athletic directors. In reply to a question from Professor Moerman, about positive steps being taken to preserve integrity, Professor Cruzat said that the faculty representatives wrote into the rules requirements to prevent big time pressure and are consulting with the woman's program group to improve the rules.

Professor Bailey said that he wanted some faculty influence (since control is unrealistic) on the degree of professionalism in athletics. He asked what the faculty on the Board in Control want to see in the non-revenue sports programs. Professor Anton said that we have not yet approached professionalism (as some schools have), and he hopes that we will not, despite increased costs. He hopes that we can give student-athletes a real education, and he expects the board to agree, though some may see it as hypocrisy.

Professor Burdi asked how strong the vote (of the Board in Control) was to move to night football in 1983. Professor Anton said that only one football game (at Notre Dame) will be played at night this year. The Board has not voted to move to night games and will probably not do so.

In reply to a question from Professor Bishop, Professor Anton said that higher eligibility standards are supported by the Big Ten, the PAC Ten, and by the "Georgia group" of administrators from across the country (including the president of USC); they will be discussed at the next NCAA meeting.

Professor Barritt said that he shares Professor Bailey's concern about professionalism. He sees football players training in the summer before the season starts. They seem to be required to be full-time athletes as well as full-time students. He recommends cutting professionalism. He also asked about the amount of general fund support for the athletic department (e.g., retiring the debt on Crisler arena). Can the athletic department repay this support? Professor Anton said that the debt retirement is \$300,000 per year, from student fees. He did not know the level of other support e.g., building design. Professor Bailey said that, until this year, the athletic department's utility costs were paid out of the general fund; this subsidy is being phased out over three years, and there is no other major subsidy.

Professor Simon asked to see the report on USC sanctions; Professor Bishop said that it will be distributed with the next packet.

NEW BUSINESS

Professor Bailey requested that SACUA review its policy on confidentiality of meetings with executive officers. He agreed that some confidentiality is needed, but he felt it is wrong for Vice President Frye's policy on tenure promotions in units under review to be shrouded in mystery. Professor Bishop will put the matter on SACUA's agenda and will seek Vice President Frye's permission to release the policy in question.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andreas Blass
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Senate Secretary