

NCAA Recertification Steering Committee Summary Note #4: January 31, 2007

www.wmich.edu/poapa/NCAACertification/

Attending: Kathy Beauregard (Intercollegiate Athletics), Dennis Corbin (Intercollegiate Athletics), Dave Corstange (Intercollegiate Athletics), Carrick Craig (Legal Affairs and General Counsel), Keith Hearit (Lee Honors College), Eileen Evans, chair (Institutional Effectiveness), James Gilchrist (Student Academic and Institutional Research), Dan Jacobson (School of Music), Mary Lagerwey (Nursing), Monty Porter (Intercollegiate Athletics), Jonathan Pugh (Institutional Effectiveness), Joe Reitz (student athlete), Cheryl Roland (University Relations), Fred Sitkins (Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering), Jeff Stone (Intercollegiate Athletics), Arnold Taylor (Information Technology), Amy Washington (Intercollegiate Athletics) **Absent:** Paul DeVries (Intercollegiate Athletics), Randy Ford (Intercollegiate Athletics), Diether H. Haenicke (President), Angela Peoples (Western Student Association), Cindee Quake-Rapp (Occupational Therapy)

Evans called the meeting to order at 11:38 A.M.

1. Schedule for **broad-based participation** in self-study:
 - Within the next two weeks, each subcommittee chair will receive and/or proactively seek input from:
 - Members of steering committee.
 - Evans and Beauregard (Pugh to set up meetings).
 - Campus community (via e-mail and at February 7 public forums).
 - Departments and individuals who can address specific self-study items.
 - Faculty Athletic Board (Sitkins to liaise with chairs).
2. Review and approval of **Summary Note #3** (12.7.06): Note was approved with one change: “Financial oversight” to read “Compliance oversight.”
3. Review of **subcommittee draft reports**:
 - At Evans’ request, respective discussions were led by:
 - Roland: Governance and Commitment to Rules Compliance.
 - Lagerwey: Academic Integrity (Jacobson received comments on behalf of Quake-Rapp).
 - Gilchrist: Equity and Student-Athlete Well-Being.
 - Final report:
 - Report to be edited for consistency of style and terminology.
 - Calculations to be verified against institutional benchmarks.
 - Beauregard distributed Sports Sponsorship Review Committee Report (see Equity and Student-Athlete Well-Being below).

Governance and Commitment to Rules Compliance

Operating Principle 1.1. (Institutional Control):

Self-Study Item #3:

- Faculty Athletic Board approved 2.0 GPA eligibility standard more than 20 years ago.
- Historically, WMU has based its figures on the GSR (Graduation Success Rate). MAC and WMU have now adopted the NCAA’s Academic Progress Rates (APR) standard.
- Narrative to state that WMU has always willingly adopted governing standard of the day.

Self-Study Item #5: Narrative to state that all senior-level DIA personnel changes were presidential appointments, and that steering committee was approved during presidential transition.

Self-Study Item #6: Narrative to describe Office of Business and Finance's strong external control over sign-off process for major decisions within DIA.

Operating Principle 1.2. (Rules Compliance):

Self-Study Item #4: Additional booster clubs to be added.

Self-Study Item #5: *Description of reporting lines and responsibilities:* Organizational chart to include dotted-line amendment.

Self-Study Item #6:

- Final report to contain recommendation on compliance language in personnel documents.
- Committee agreed that this is a human resources issue that applies to all universities.
- Compliance with applicable accrediting/sanctioning/governing body is implicit in all appointments.
- Letters of appointment at WMU do not contain a generic statement from human resources regarding compliance with governing bodies, but do refer to appointee's obligation to abide by Employee Handbook; Handbook *does* contain relevant compliance language.
- Subcommittee is working with vice provost for budget and personnel to amend senior-level staff appointees' letters by 2008.

Self-Study Item #7: As above.

Self-Study Item #12: Access to president to be included in organizational chart.

Academic Integrity

Operating Principle 2.1. (Academic Standards):

Self-Study Items #4 through #7:

- "Special admission" means that an additional student has been admitted without displacing any currently enrolled students.
- Additional examples of special admissions to be listed to illustrate that procedure is not restricted to athletics.
- Narrative to clarify meaning of "normal entrance requirements" (page 4).

Self-Study Item #8: Actual names and titles to be added.

Self-Study Item #9:

- Actual names and titles to be added.
- WMU's monitoring of continuing eligibility compares very favorably with other institutions.
- Beauregard described effect of Summer I and Summer II calendars on enrollment.

Self-Study Item #10: If basketball hadn't been a part of equation, figures wouldn't have dropped appreciably.

Self-Study Item #11: Jacobson to add language to affirm that special scheduling arrangements are not restricted to student-athletes (e.g., honors students also have priority registration).

Self-Study Item #12: Jacobson to expand narrative.

Self-Study Items #13 and #14:

- Response will remain "N/A" for time being.

- Subcommittee to seek input from Faculty Senate and Undergraduate Studies Council.
- According to Reitz, men’s basketball coach insists that team members discuss scheduling conflicts with their professors at earliest opportunity.

Operating Principle 2.2. (Academic Support):

Self-Study Item #5:

- Narrative to include recommendation regarding mentoring by student-athlete seniors.
- DIA sends out a Cognos-generated mid-term grade report to all faculty with student-athletes in their classes.
- Subcommittee will discuss desirability/feasibility of “red-flagging” student-athletes who are in danger of losing their eligibility.
- Issue of absence requests should be examined at Universitywide level.

Equity and Student-Athlete Well-Being

- Sports Sponsorship Review Committee:
 - Sports Sponsorship Review Committee documented WMU’s Title IX compliance in its 2003 report, identifying areas that need work.
 - Craig has agreed to chair reconstituted committee, which will include several members of original roster.
 - Members will serve one-year terms.
 - Committee will meet immediately and distribute a survey instrument to coaches, students, etc., with a view to formulating a plan for abiding by Title IX’s equity requirements.
- Proposition 2 /Title IX issues:
 - Proposition 2 may prevent WMU from pursuing particular equity policies.
 - Instances might arise in which Title IX (a federal law) takes precedence over a state proposition (e.g., an NSF grant intended for a specific group).
 - Although universities might be able to cite Title IX compliance to justify a failure to comply with Proposition 2, NCAA compliance can’t be used as an excuse.
 - Craig suggested following language (or similar) in report: “To the maximum extent permitted by both state and federal law, WMU is committed to maintaining gender equity and minority equity, and to the well-being of its student-athletes.”

Operating Principle 3.1., Gender Issues:

Self-Study Item #2: Potential conflict between Proposition 2 and Title IX in regard to endowed scholarship programs intended for specific groups (e.g., Beaugard Internship). Narrative to be revised accordingly.

Self-Study Item #7: Written, stand-alone plan will acknowledge nationwide market realities such as head football coaches’ effect on male/female salary ratio.

Operating Principle 3.2., Minority Issues:

Self-Study Item #9:

- Key word is “inclusion.”
- Language of written, stand-alone plan should emphasize equal access to opportunities. Although Proposition 2 forbids *appointments* based on diversity, WMU can and should ensure a diverse pool of *applicants* in which all applicants are on an equal footing.

Operating Principle 3.3., Student-Athlete Well-Being: Report must illustrate that WMU has taken appropriate steps to continue monitoring and evaluation processes.

4. Review of Draft #1 of **Introduction to Self-Study Report:**

- Evans to verify that “most recent accreditation self-study” refers to 2005 Higher Learning Commission focused visit.
- Senior-level changes:
 - Institutional list to be edited for clarity.
 - Fact that DIA list features only one senior-level change is evidence of stability.
- Broad-based participation: Each subcommittee to actively engage relevant groups and individuals (see 1. above).
- Final version of written plan to be added prior to submission of report.
- DIA mission statement:
 - Faculty Athletic Board is reviewing (i.e., amending and/or approving) each section of policies manual.
 - Roland, Gilchrist, Sitkins, and Beauregard to update pages 31 through 34 of 1998 self-study report, incorporating relevant text from student-athlete code of conduct.

5. **Other** business:

- Evans thanked the members of the steering committee and subcommittees for their hard work and dedication.
- Beauregard invited steering committee members and their family members to attend the WMU-Alaska Fairbanks hockey game on February 10.
- Beauregard announced that committee member Paul DeVries became a father for the first time last night.

Evans adjourned the meeting at 1:38 P.M.