Proposal for the formation of an Athletic Advisory Committee at Penn

Background and Rationale

The purpose of such an advisory committee is to provide a forum for discussion of any issues related to scholar-athletes at Penn. The goal is to improve the educational and life experience for student-athletes as well as to promote communication and interaction between various advising offices, faculty, and the Division of Recreation and Intercollegiate Athletics.

Expected topics of discussion for the committee include: increasing the communication between schools, faculty, and DRIA, by sharing information related to academic advising; identifying best-practices for handling practices for missed classes and exams; and strengthening partnership for academic planning across various divisions within the university. One immediate goal of the committee is to identify issues across schools and units supporting our students and determine priority. It is suggested that these and related discussion points are best addressed by an integrated committee representing a balanced perspective.

Penn is the only member of the Ivy League without such an advisory committee. The composition and role of this committee vary widely among other institutions; in all cases, however, the committee serves solely in an advisory capacity and focuses on balanced discussion of such agenda items as academic achievement, equity, student-athlete well-being, and policy. The Athletic Eligibility Committee at Penn focuses on NCAA, Ivy League, and Penn eligibility for athletic practice and competition; there is no overlap with this proposed committee in terms of purpose, discussion content, or role within the university.

Charge

The committee will be chaired by the Faculty Athletic Representative and will report to the Vice Provost for Education and the Athletic Director. The committee will identify and discuss general matters pertaining to the student-athlete at Penn, as well as address matters brought to its attention. As deemed necessary or by request, the committee will prepare a report and make a recommendation to the Vice Provost for Education and the Athletic Director.

Proposed Composition (N = 16)

- Two student members; one from the Undergraduate Assembly and one representative from the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
- Four eligibility officers, or similar designate, from each of the four undergraduate schools
- Two directors from the Division of Recreation and Intercollegiate Athletics
- One director from Campus Recreation and Wellness
- Representative from the Ivy League policy committee (University Vice President of Budget and Management Analysis)
- Faculty Athletic Representative (Chair)
- Two additional standing faculty
- Representative from the Vice Provost for University Life
- Representative from the Vice Provost for Education
- Representative from the Athletic Director

Proposed Meetings

Twice per semester