

## Report of the Athletics Advisory Board

March 26, 2009

I will be extraordinarily brief:

- Compared to a year ago, when Athletics was in the midst of significant program cuts, this year has been very quiet for the Athletics Advisory Board. When we met with President Carothers for the last time in February, he agreed.
  
- The board received its annual report from the Academic Advising staff earlier this month. Although grappling with missed class time for some student-athletes remains a matter of discussion, no other serious concerns emerged. We will meet with the NCAA Compliance Coordinator in April and I don't expect anything out of the ordinary in his report.
  
- To date, the board has received no requests from intercollegiate or club teams for permission to compete during the Final Exam period.
  
- Our student-athletes continue to perform well in the classroom. For Fall 2008, their cumulative gpa was 2.83 and 28 percent were named to the Dean's List. These students, along with Spring '08 Dean's List athletes, were recognized during a Feb. 11 ceremony that included inspiring remarks by Grace Hedstrom of the tennis team and Mark Stevens of the golf team. (Seven percent of student-athletes were on academic probation after the fall semester, a drop of one percentage point from Fall '07. )
  
- Our athletes' academic accomplishments continue to be recognized on and off the campus. I will provide the Senate office a complete list at the end of the semester. Some highlights:
  - 82 URI student-athletes were named to the Atlantic 10 Commissioner's Honor Roll for the fall 2008 semester. To be recognized, each student-athlete must have a semester gpa of 3.5 or higher.

-- Three members of the football team were named to the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Academic All-Conference team. To be eligible, a player must be a starter or important reserve and have a cumulative GPA of 3.00-or-better for his entire academic career.

-- Three juniors earned spots on the 2009 Atlantic 10 Men's Indoor Track and Field Academic All-Conference Team.

-- Two juniors earned spots on the 2009 Atlantic 10 Women's Indoor Track and Field Academic All-Conference Team.

- The NCAA's Academic Progress Rate (APR), which is intended to provide a semester-by-semester measure of student-athlete progress toward a degree, is calculated on a team-by-team basis. All URI teams were above the penalty threshold in the latest data.

[http://web1.ncaa.org/app\\_data/apr2007/572\\_2007\\_apr.pdf](http://web1.ncaa.org/app_data/apr2007/572_2007_apr.pdf)

- The NCAA also calculates a Graduation Success Rate for scholarship athletes. The GSR differs from the federally mandated graduate-rate methodology in that it counts transfers in and out of an institution. The latest figures (for freshmen student-athletes who entered college in 2001) showed that our GSRs were above the federal rates for all teams except one (men's swimming and diving; 81 vs. 86 percent).

[http://web1.ncaa.org/app\\_data/gsr2008/572.pdf](http://web1.ncaa.org/app_data/gsr2008/572.pdf)

Thanks. I'll be glad to try to answer any questions.

Barbara F. Luebke  
Chair, Athletics Advisory Board

