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UA1B3/3 Annual Report

WKU Athletics Committee

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University Athletics Committee Annual Report 2000-2001

This was a year of changes. The commitment to Title IX continued as the women's soccer coach was hired and competition begins in Fall, 2001. The committee now represents all of the college, including the Community College and the Library.

University Athletics Committee Meetings-

September 7, 2000—This was the first meeting of the new committee for 2000-2001. Dr. White welcomed Dr. Karen Schneider from Potter College and Ms. Amanda Kirby as a student representative. This was the first time all five colleges and the library were represented by faculty. Ms. Herriford reported on the Champs/Lifeskills Program that is now mandated by the NCAA. Freshman Seminar will be used to meet some of the Lifeskills requirements, the FBI will provide a speaker on Sports Gambling and ARAMARK has agreed to provide a nutritionist to speak on Nutrition for Athletes. Dr. Selig reported that WKU is off to a great start academically and athletically. There is a new sports network--the Big Red Radio Network. The two biggest issues in athletics for the year according to Dr. Selig are the remodeling of Diddle Arena and the student fee for athletics. Dr. Selig also reported that the track should be completed within the next two weeks. Baseball coach, Joel Murrie was in attendance and discussed the baseball schedule. Coach Murrie does a great job of scheduling so that students miss as few classes as possible. The baseball schedule was approved. Other schedules approved were: men's and women's Tennis, Golf, Cross-Country, men's and women's Swimming and women's Basketball. The fiscal year for the Athletics Committee was changed from July 1--June 30, to September 1--August 31 to accommodate the actions necessary on schedules over the summer.

October 10, 2000—Two new members of the committee were introduced by Dr. White-Dr. Mark Ross, representing the Gordon Ford College of Business and Mr. Jason Detre, representing the Student Government Association. Ms. Andria Humpert is the Student Athlete Advisory Committee representative, but was unable to attend this meeting. Ms. Herriford presented the Gender Equity Report to the committee that is required by the NCAA and also sent to the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Selig presented a press release that reported on the guilty pleas of two men's basketball players and not guilty plea of a third member of the men's basketball team. Dr. White appointed a committee to revise the Policy and Procedures Manual for the Department of Athletics. Ms. Herriford was appointed as chair with members: Mr. Jason Detre, Dr. Don Carter, Ms. Connie Foster and Ms. Amanda Kirby. That sub-committee is asked to report at the March, 2001 meeting. Dr. Selig also distributed the Strategic Plan for Athletics for 2000-2001. The primary point of discussion was about the increase in student fees proposed by the Athletics Director. Dr. Selig explained that some of the fee increase is designated for the renovation of Diddle Arena. The Guidelines of the University Athletics Committee were

amended as follows: the scheduling guidelines are amended from 4 MWF class misses and 4 TRF class misses to 5 MWF and 3 TR class misses.

November 14, 2000--Ms. Herriford gave an update on the update of the Policy and Procedures Manual. The following schedules were approved: Softball, men's and women's Golf, men's and women's Tennis, Indoor Track and Field. Ms. Foster asked that the Guidelines for the University Athletics Committee be amended to include the sentence from the policy on class attendance that was previously approved in April 1994: "Class attendance during pre-season and/or post-season tournament play will be handled on an individual basis." Ms. Herriford reported on the successful season for the football team so far. The Volleyball team was the co-champion in the Sun Belt Conference and had the highest GPA (second in the country). The swimming team was undefeated and the soccer team finished in the top four in the conference tournament. Dr. Selig reported on the Fall SBC meetings in New Orleans. The basketball tournament will be combined and held in Mobile at the University of South Alabama. Western must purchase 500 tickets at \$50 each. He also reported that the bleachers in the top section of Diddle Arena were removed and reduced the capacity by 2,000.

January 23, 2001—Dr. White welcomed the new women's Soccer coach, Jason Neidell. Coach Neidell reported that there were 16 verbal commitments from soccer players. He reported that the new soccer facility was first class and was an aid in recruiting. Ms. Herriford reported that the men's Basketball team was doing very well. Lady Toppers Natalie Powers and ShaRae Mansfield were ranked in the top 20 in the nation in scoring. The women's Swim team were the first Sun Belt Conference champions. The following schedules were approved: women's Golf (revised), women's Soccer and Football. Ms. Herriford reported that the Policies and Procedures Manual has not been finalized yet. Dr. White distributed a handout to the committee entitled Issues for Consideration. It included travel, budget, time issues and Title IX.

May 2, 2001--Dr. White noted that it has been difficult to find a time when the committee could get a quorum and the committee has not met since January. Dr. White distributed a sheet with information that substituted for the Athletics Director's report. Athletics Committee member Andria Humpert receive the Female Scholar Athlete of the Year Award at the Awards Banquet. There was some discussion of the safety of 15-passenger vans. Dr. White will bring data to the committee early next year. The Volleyball schedule was submitted for approval. There were a total of 7 Friday classed missed according to the schedule. (See note below) The schedule was not approved and was sent back for revision. Ms. Eggleton presented the NCAA graduation rates report.

Other Items related to the Faculty Athletics Representative—

One of the tasks given to the FAR is to give the annual Coaches Certification Test to all coaches. Each coach must pass a recruiting exam created by the NCAA in order to be able to recruit off-campus. Because of the timing of the exam, it must be given in May and then there are several make-up exams, since all coaches are not here at the same time

over the summer. This year, I have had to give the exam on at least five occasions. Each time is a commitment of at least 2 hours.

Met monthly with the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. The SAAC is an NCAA-mandated committee composed of members from the various teams and other student groups, such as cheerleaders, dance team and trainers. The purpose of the SAAC is to give the students a venue to discuss and recommend action for issues related to student-athlete welfare and safety.

FAR attended the monthly Athletics Staff meetings and the head coaches' meetings.

FAR attended the SBC Cross-Country Championships in Little Rock in October.

FAR attended the SBC Swimming Championships in Little Rock in November.

FAR attended the Fall Sun Belt Conference meeting in New Orleans in November. Met with the Constitution and Bylaws committee and with other FAR's.

FAR attended the National Faculty Athletics Representative Association (FARA) in Tampa in November. I have been on the Constitution and Bylaws committee of FARA for three years. This is an opportunity to network and discuss issues related to student welfare and safety with others from all over the country at different levels in the NCAA.

March, 2001--Attended the Sun Belt Conference Basketball tournament in Mobile. This was a great opportunity to see the whole conference together and to overdose on basketball games. Great collegial atmosphere and time to get to know others in the conference. This was the first time that the men's and women's tournaments were combined. It was a great show. WKU men are the Champions of the SBC and the women did very well before falling in the semi-finals.

May, 2001--Attended the annual Spring Meeting of the Sun Belt Conference in Sandestin, Florida. I was elected to a two-year term as a member of the Executive Committee of the SBC and as chair of the Faculty Athletics Representatives. This is the major meeting for the Conference in which Football coaches, men's and women's Basketball coaches, Athletics Directors, Senior Woman Administrators and Faculty Athletics Representatives meet and discuss issues relevant to the Conference. It is at this meeting that much of the business of the conference is decided, such as the awarding of the rights to host championships. At this meeting, WKU was awarded 7 conference championships to host. This is a credit to Dr. Ransdell and the athletics staff that the Conference was willing to hold the men's and women's Basketball championship in the remodeled Diddle Arena for the 2003 and 2004 years as well as Softball, Volleyball and women's Soccer.

Note on Volleyball Schedule--After the Volleyball schedule was not approved at the May 2 meeting of the Athletics Committee, I met with Pam Herriford and tried to work out something that would be acceptable. Over a period of a week, I talked with Dr.

Jeanne Boyd, who is in charge of scheduling at the Sun Belt Conference, I met with Travis Hudson, the Volleyball coach and spent several hours searching for a compromise. One of the problems with scheduling this year has to do with the three early tournaments that are nonconference. The solution is that next year we will hold our own tournament, which will reduce the number of missed classes. Also, the conference is currently scheduling us for home matches on the Fall Break weekend. It was agreed that in the future, the SBC will schedule an away match over fall break, which again will allow our best academic team to miss fewer classes. Much effort was expended here and I thank Pam Herriford, Dr. Boyd and Coach Hudson for their cooperation and hard work.

We were finally notified in April that the Interim Report was approved and we must conduct our next self-study in 2003 with 2004 as the year for the next Certification study.

FAR served on the Search Committee for the women's Basketball Head Coach. This was a fairly extensive search process that involved several meetings and significant time commitment.