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UA1B3/3 Development of a Faculty Athletic Mentoring Program

WKU Athletics Committee

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We recommend the development and implementation of a Faculty Athletic Mentoring Program for WKU student-athletes.
- based on information gathered from other similar programs and informal conversations with student-athletics, coaches, and faculty
- prerequisite that it has support from Department of Athletics

We recommend the formation of a committee to develop the plans for implementation.
- the committee should include representatives from the following constituencies: student-athletes, faculty/UAC, coaches, athletic administration
  - perhaps 7 members (2 faculty, 2 coaches, 2 student-athletes, 1 athletic administration rep; secretarial assistance would be helpful)
- goal would be pilot program for 2007-08 academic year with goal of full implementation for 2008-09 (would probably want to allow for opt out)
- initial responsibility would be to gauge and develop support for program

Issues to be addressed include:
Development of Program Name
Development of Mission Statement and Description
Itemization of Benefits for Implementation
Itemization of Responsibilities for All Parties (and Clarification of Role)
Training
Establishment of Oversight
Criteria for Selection of Faculty Mentors
Budgetary Issues

Suggested Template for Discussion and Development of Program
*Items in italics are taken from Princeton’s Program and are included to help facilitate discussion.*

WKU Faculty Athletic Mentoring Program

Mission and Description
The WKU Faculty Athletic Mentoring Program emphasizes the educational mission of intercollegiate athletics. The Faculty Athletic Mentoring Program helps integrate athletics more fully into the education mission of other academic programs.

Faculty athletic fellows serve as a support group for student-athletes and coaches.
Faculty athletic fellows serve as a resource for student-athletes and coaches.

Faculty will serve as fellows for a particular athletic team and coach.

Benefits of the Fellows Program
Benefits for Fellows
  - Make a significant impact on the academic development of the student-athlete
  - Develop a better understanding of the commitment required of student-athletes

Benefits for Student-Athletes and Coaches

Benefits to Department of Athletics and WKU
From Princeton’s Program – Needs Revision; Some Scaling Back

- Invited to team functions, barbecues, and banquets
- Allowed to be on the sideline during games and practices
- Able to informally interact with student athletes and coaches
- Included on the team roster
- Photo and biography in the media guide and game programs
- Travel with teams to some road games
- Travel with teams on selected training trips during breaks
- Build strong friendships with student athletes and coaches
- Receive team apparel

Benefits to Coaches and Athletes

- Provides coaches with an additional resource to help advise student athletes with on and off the field matters
- Meet prospective student athletes during the recruiting process
- Another person watching the student athletes' academic progress
- Another mentor the student athlete can seek out for advice
- Affords coaches the ability to manage time better
- Another counselor that can give input to the well being of the student athlete

Itemization of Responsibilities for All Parties (and Clarification of Role)

To be successful there must be an opportunity for parties to interact and develop rapport.

Strategies may include:

- formal introductions at start of year
- presentations by faculty mentors
- attendance at some practices
- attendance at games
- travel with team to selected event(s)
- meet with prospective students

It is important to also highlight what the program is not.

- not a super fan
- not a replacement for academic advisors, etc.

Over the past few year’s fellows have worked with their teams in several different ways. Some examples of the different ways fellows have worked with their teams are:

- Hosted dinners and lunches for their teams
- Travel with teams over vacations and breaks
- Meet with prospective student athletes when they come on their official visit
- Provide freshmen with advice on how to adjust to college life
- Attend practices and games
- Allow student athletes and coaches to contact them at home

The fellow will work with the team to build rapport over time. There are no specific expectations or relationships we are looking for through the program. Each fellow will have their own way of building this rapport. Some fellows spend more time with their teams than other fellows, but all fellows benefit their teams. It is not necessary for the fellow to have knowledge of the sport for which they are a fellow. The fellow and team are paired to create a mutually beneficial partnership that builds strong relationships between student athletes, coaches, and fellows.
Training
Training needs to include education on role of mentor as well as training necessary to ensure compliance with NCAA regulations. Mentor should be required to attend a training session.

Princeton University Academic-Athletic Fellows
Permissible/Impermissible Compliance List
PERMISSIBLE
Occasional Meals You may provide an occasional family home meal to a student-athlete on infrequent and special occasions under the following conditions:
(a) The meal must be provided in your home (as opposed to a restaurant) and may be catered; and
(b) You may provide reasonable local transportation to student-athletes to attend the meal function only if the meal function is at the fellow's home.

Practice
You may attend practices, but may not participate in any on or off-field coaching activities, off-campus recruitment of prospects, or scouting of opponents.

Recruiting
You may meet with and provide a meal at your home for a prospect on an official visit, provided the meal is on a scale comparable to that of normal life, is not excessive in nature and occurs only on one occasion.

Other
It is permissible to do any of the following:
1. Sit on the team bench during a game;
2. Arrange team travel;
3. Coordinate complimentary admissions;
4. Review recruiting documentation;
5. Work with your team's schedule;
6. Assign equipment;
7. Coordinate public service activities;
8. Coordinate correspondence;
9. Track academic performance;
10. Splice game film;
11. Keep a play chart/statistics;
12. Be present at on-campus recruiting events;
13. Be in a basketball team huddle (provided no coaching occurs)

IMPERMISSIBLE
Extra Benefits
An extra benefit is any special arrangement by you to provide a student-athlete or the student-athlete's relative or friend a benefit not authorized by NCAA legislation. Extra benefits may include any of the following:
1. Transportation You may not provide a student-athlete with extra benefits or services including transportation, even if the student-athlete reimburses the institution or you for the appropriate amount of gas or expense.
2. Lodging You may not provide free or reduced rent or housing. This includes the summer time as well as the academic year.
3. Money You may not provide cash or loans in any amount.
4. Gifts You may provide gifts to a student-athlete only if you provide the same gifts to all of the students in your classes.
**Instruction/Analysis**

*It is impermissible to do any of the following:*

1. Analyze videotape/film involving your team or its opponents;
2. Scout opponents;
3. Participate in off-campus recruiting;
4. Observe practice for evaluation;
5. Set up offenses, defenses or strategy;
6. Provide analysis of a practice session;
7. Attend meetings involving coaching activities
8. Provide skill instruction.

**Establishment of Oversight**

We recommend shared oversight between University Athletic Committee and Department of Athletics.

**Criteria for Selection of Faculty Mentors**

- 18 Sports – goal of 2 per sport minimum/approximately 50 overall
- Goal would be to not exclude interested parties
- It is suggested that a committee representing the Department of Athletics and UAC will select and assign mentors.
  - The goal is to match up mentors with sports that they have some kind of background.

**Budgetary Issues**

- It is recommended that costs be limited to the following:
  - One official Faculty Athletic Mentoring Program Polo which can be worn for any official activities
  - Any travel costs (these can be managed by limiting travel to bus trips; food would be per diem or dinner with team)
  - Costs should be less than $10,000 per year