

University Athletic Committee  
Meeting on Tuesday, October 18 from 3:30-4:30pm

The NCAA is voting this week on some important policy changes that will impact student athletes at colleges/universities. The most significant change is an increase in a metric that measures graduation rates. If colleges/universities don't achieve the increased score for a particular sport(s), that sport could be banned from post season play. Ross Bjork said the change could affect some of our athletic programs - including men's basketball and men's swimming. However, he also said that the language of the proposals could change, and there is no guarantee that one or more of these proposals before the NCAA will be adopted. After the NCAA votes on these policy changes - I will send you another e-mail with specific information on the changes that will impact the life of student-athletes at WKU. I will likely not receive this information until our next meeting - which is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15 at 3:30.

We also reviewed the schedules of the teams that compete in the Spring semester. The UAC voiced its concern that many of the home baseball games begin on Fridays at 3:00pm - and even though those games are home and don't involve any travel, there is a concern that players will miss late morning or early afternoon classes. Ross and James are going to speak with the coaches and academic advisors so that the baseball players will be encouraged to register for morning classes on MWF as to reduce absences.

There were no other major concerns with the schedules of the other sports. Ross did say that at the Sun Belt Conference meetings last week, there was some discussion of adding additional games/meets for women's volleyball - but the AD's vetoed that proposal because there was concerns raised that it would cause the players to miss too many mid-week classes. Over the past year, I get the sense that Ross is VERY sensitive and aware of the fact that student-athletes must to be in the classroom - and the university needs to take great care when scheduling competitions. He said that this year the baseball team is playing more home games so as to limit absences from classes (and of course to generate more revenue through ticket sales and to take advantage of home-field advantage).

Ross did speak of the conference realignments that are occurring. And he said that he and Dr. Ransdell are monitoring the situation closely. Changes (and rumored changes) are occurring daily. I will of course let you know if we receive any communication directly on this matter.

Finally, James announced that I would be serving as the official senate representative on UAC. I promised James and Ross full transparency in this role - mainly - that I would be sure to cc him when I submit my report to you. I hope you have no objections to this. If so, please let me know so we can discuss it.