NCAA Self Study Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 30, 2010
4:00 PM, GL 835 & LIB 155

Meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm


I. Dr. Jones welcomed everyone and indicated she wanted to start with updates from the subcommittee chairs.

II. Dr. Robertson provided a report for the Academic Integrity Subcommittee.

A. The committee is progressing. Although unable to meet “unofficial” deadline for completion by this week, hope to be able to finalize the report areas in early January and develop Plans for Improvement by the end of January.

B. The Comprehensive Program Review of academic support services was reviewed by the subcommittee in early November. Based on feedback to the evaluation committee, the recommendations were refined. The Student Athlete Academic Center reviewed the evaluation and is developing its plans for improvement to address the recommendations.

C. No major deficiencies in Academic Integrity have been identified to date. Given the unprecedented university support of student-athletes academic services through Strategic Initiatives submitted by the former Dean of Undergraduate Education, we can demonstrate compliance with NCAA standards and continue to improve.

III. Dr. Tanke reported for the Governance and Compliance Subcommittee.

A. The Committee has made great progress and most of the committee members have submitted their reports.

B. Dr. Tanke plans to have the majority of the Governance and Compliance section complete by December 17th.

C. Dr. Jones added that a meeting was held with Leyda Benitez, Jaffus Hardrick, Elizabeth Bejar, Susan Himburg, Mary Tanke, and Julie Berg to discuss the additional duties in job descriptions and letter of offers for people who had additional tasks related to compliance. The following was suggested:
1. Existing letter of offers would not be redone or changed but FIU would move forward and would include in the letters from now on.
2. A conference call with NCAA is planned to get clarity on all pending issues and questions regarding job descriptions etc.

IV. Dr. Charmaine DeFrancesco provided a report for the Gender / Diversity Issues and Student Athlete Well-being Subcommittee.

A. Committee successfully met several times. Phillip Hamilton has been very helpful in assisting with the committee's work.

B. FIU has yet to develop a travel policy to respond to Page 72 no. 15 of the self-study report.
   1. Leyda Benitez expressed that she would be happy to draft something but it is important that the policy have some flexibility and it is going to require a lot of input to make sure this policy gets approved and set.
   2. Kristina Raattama suggested FIU do some research and benchmark what peer institutions are doing in regards to the policies for travel for students.
   3. Elizabeth Bejar suggested FIU create a very broad "Travel" Academic Affairs policy.
   4. Rosa Jones concluded that Julie Berg, Leyda Benitez and herself would create a policy before the next meeting to hopefully make it official as soon as possible.
   5. Elizabeth Bejar mentioned spring dates of the personnel meetings and Faculty Senate in January which policies can be presented and be approved.

C. Diversity Issues:
   1. Charmaine explained that the diversity section of the self-study was progressing and Julie Berg has been assisting the committee with this.
   2. Data show there has been a shift in the last five years:
      a. Athletics maintained minority admissions during the self-study years of fall 2005-2008.
      b. With the increase in scholarships in 2008, there was an increase in white students (potentially related to marketing).

D. Gender Issues - It was suggested the Title IX consultant report be shared with the Steering Committee.
   1. FIU's proportion of female athletes does not meet Title IX guidelines.
2. FIU has maxed out female scholarships in each sport and limited walk-on males in sport teams.

3. Charmaine DeFrancesco explained fixing gender equity involves added coaches, lockers room, etc which means more funds would have to be allocated.

4. Pete Garcia mentioned that additional teams have been considered: Sand Volleyball and Competitive Cheerleading.

5. Leyda Benitez mentioned that FIU has been sending surveys to incoming freshman females surveying the interest related to sport programs.

V. Dr. Bejar announced that FIU’s NCAA Site Visit Chair has been appointed by NCAA: President of Kansas State University – Dr. Kirk Shultz.

A. Dr. Thomas Breslin asked if any type of conflict was observed with this person.

B. Dr. Jones answered that the NCAA has done their due diligence to choose the Committee Chair.

VI. Dr. Jones discussed Future Meetings

A. Two meetings in January to review the plans for improvement
B. Mid February and early March to review edited report.
C. March is for the Open Forums and the plan is to maximize student participation
D. Dr. Jones indicated she would like to have the plans of improvement before the next meeting and have everyone review them and be ready to discuss.

VII. Hearing no further questions the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm