FAR’s presentation to LSU’s Faculty Senate

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The FAR’s responsibilities lie in three broad areas:

- Academic integrity (within the athletics program)
- Student-athlete well-being
- Institutional control (of the athletics program)

The FAR’s involvement assures that a faculty voice is present in intercollegiate athletics at all times

My perspective as a geographer: activities on our campus are situated at the local, conference, and national scales
Faculty role NCAA governance

- Former LSU Chancellor Mark Emmert to become NCAA President
  - Second University President to serve

- New rule for faculty representation in D1 NCAA Cabinets & Councils
  - 20% FARs and ADs
  - This is in addition to 35% gender, and 20% ethnic minority minimum requirements
Academic Integrity measurements

- NCAA’s academic reform initiatives
- Progress toward degree & continuing eligibility requirements:
  - 40/60/80% in years 2/3/4
  - 90/95/100% of GPA in major in years 2/3/4
  - Must pass 6 hours in previous semester; 18 hours in previous 2 semesters
  - Must complete 24 hours by 3rd semester (incl. summer)
- Academic Progress Rate (APR)
- Graduation Success Rate (GSR)
APR

- Measures progress by individuals in each sport
- Introduced 2004; a 4-year rolling average “score”
- Awards points per term to each scholarship SA
  - meeting academic eligibility standards
  - remaining with the institution
  - graduating
- Score calculated by team
  - Score of 925/1000 approximates 50% graduation
  - Teams below 925 subject to escalating penalties
LSU’s 2007-8 APR (reported in 2009)

- Selected teams:
  - Men’s Golf 983
  - Men’s Swimming/Diving 980
  - Men’s Tennis 979
  - Football 960
  - Men’s Basketball 942
  - Women’s Cross-Country 987
  - Women’s Volleyball 986
  - Women’s Tennis 986
  - Women’s Gymnastics 985
  - Women’s Swimming/Diving 971
  - Women’s Basketball 967
LSU’s 2007-8 APR (reported in 2009)
APR compared to all D1 FBS

- Selected teams: above FBS avg / below FBS avg
  - Men’s Golf 983
  - Men’s Swimming/Diving 980
  - Men’s Tennis 979
  - Football 960
  - Men’s Basketball 942
  - Women’s Cross-Country 987
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  - Women’s Gymnastics 985
  - Women’s Swimming/Diving 971
  - Women’s Basketball 967
LSU’s APR

- Lower-performing teams
  - Baseball 921*
    - Filed APR improvement plan
    - New Coach
    - Most recent single-year APR (2008) was 1000
    - APR is rising
LSU’s APR in context

- Lower-performing teams at the national level:
  - Football 960
    - Football Academic Working Group making recommendations
  - Men’s Basketball 942
    - A nation-wide issue
    - Basketball Academic Enhancement Group has legislation underway
  - Baseball 921
    - Sport-specific legislation recently passed based on Baseball Academic Enhancement Working Group recommendations
LSU’s GSR 2002/3 cohort (graduated in May 2008)

- Federal Graduation Rate, all LSU students = 59%
- Federal Graduation Rate, LSU student-athletes = 57%

- Includes transfer students and mid-year enrollees
- 71% Graduation Success Rate
  - Overall D1 GSR is 79% (including FBS, FCS, and no football)
  - Improvement plan includes: summer academic success program, early academic intervention, academic planning, and emphasis on lifeskills
Student-athlete well-being

- Concussions follow-up
- At LSU, student-athletes are pre-screened on computerized tests ("ImpACT") to establish subjective/objective baselines for memory, reaction time, & cognitive function
  - ImpACT is used by NHL and NFL; at LSU for 9 years
- Then, anyone with a possible concussion is:
  - Removed from play
  - Examined by medical staff
    - “Graded Symptom Checklist” to assess severity
  - Retested on ImpACT
    - Brain MRI or CT & neurology follow up if needed
- Not allowed to return to play until symptoms have resolved
- Decisions are made by medical/training staff, not coaches
- Our consultants are key researchers in the field
- Return to play is very gradual and supervised by medical staff
Concussions, and the NCAA

- Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sport has ongoing inquiry
- Working with key consultants/researchers
- NCAA hosting a summit on concussions this summer
- April 29th: new policy requires concussion-management plans at all institutions:
  - Mandate removal from play for signs/symptoms of concussion
  - Assessment must be conducted by appropriately experienced medical staff
  - Those diagnosed with concussions may not return to play that day
  - Clearance to play must be determined by medical staff
  - Sound familiar?
- Expect more new legislation & possible sport rules changes
Institutional Control

- NCAA Rules Violations
- When violations are alleged, the FAR works with Compliance to investigate allegations, report violations, and recommend corrective action
- The process, and the FAR’s role, depends upon the violation
  - Secondary violations
  - Major violations
- In the case of (potential) major violations, the FAR plays a central role in investigations, the preparation of written reports, and in eventual hearings and fulfillment of penalties
Previously Reported Violations in Football

- Potential rules violations self-detected in September
  - Impermissible recruiting activities (phone calls, transportation, housing, meals) on a small scale
- Investigation began immediately
  - Compliance, LSU’s Counsel, FAR
    - Data collection; interviews
- Isolated to one (now former) assistant coach and one (now former) student-athlete
  - Coach withheld from recruiting activities
  - Student-athlete withheld from all competition
  - LSU gained no competitive or recruiting advantage
- FAR’s faculty voice has been involved in the investigation from the start
- 55-page report submitted to NCAA March
- NCAA will assess; premature to speculate on outcomes
- Process will likely be lengthy
Questions?

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### LSU’s GSR 1999-2002 cohorts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sports</th>
<th>Men’s Graduation Rates</th>
<th>Women’s Graduation Rates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>48%*</td>
<td>Women’s Basketball 78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Basketball</td>
<td>29%*</td>
<td>Women’s Track 70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>Women’s Golf 71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Track</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>Swimming 89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s Golf</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>Tennis 67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s Swimming</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>Gymnastics 85%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s Tennis</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Soccer 84%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LSU’s Federal Graduation Rate for 2002 = 59%</td>
<td>Softball 81%</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Volleyball 100%</td>
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