**Report to Faculty Senate on Intercollegiate Athletics**

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As required by the Office of the President, this annual report to the Faculty Senate covers AY 2015-2016 with respect to 1) student-athlete academic performance, 2) student-athlete eligibility for competition, 3) violations of NCAA and Big Sky Conference (BSC) regulations, and 4) the Athletic Director’s statement regarding notable developments and issues. At the November 10thFaculty Senate meeting, we will be happy to answer questions.

**I. Academic Performance of Student-Athletes**

UM grade point average and credits taken

Athletes All undergrads

Fall 2015

Average term GPA 3.14 2.91

Average cumulative GPA 3.19 2.98

Average term credits 13.8 12

On Dean’s list 25.6% 21.5%

On academic probation 1.8% 6.3%

Spring 2016

Average term GPA 3.17 2.94

Average cumulative GPA 3.20 3.02

Average term credits 14.1 12.3

On Dean’s list 21.3% 22.7%

On academic probation .7% 3.9%

NCAA Multiyear Academic Progress Rates (perfect = 1000; problematic = 930)\*

UM sport APR

Men’s Basketball 950

Men’s Cross Country 966

Football 937

Men’s Tennis 959

Men’s Track 954

Women’s Basketball 991

Women’s Cross Country 1000

Women’s Golf 1000

Women’s Soccer 970

Women’s Softball 1000\*

Women’s Tennis 992

Women’s Track 984

Women’s Volleyball 969

\*The softball APR score represents a single year cohort (2014-15).

\*APR formula: Each student-athlete can earn a maximum of two points each semester: 1 point for retention and 1 point for academic eligibility (maximum of 4 points for an academic year). For each sport, the earned points of the student athletes are added up, divided by the number of possible points, and multiplied by 1000 to yield the yearly APR for that sport. The multiyear APR is derived from the most current APR and the APR for each of the prior 3 years.

UM Graduation Rates: Four-Class Average (based on 2008-09 freshmen cohort)

Athletes All students

67% 49%

**II.** **Ineligibility for Competition, Spring 2016 and Fall 2016: Reasons and Number**

Reason # Spring 2016 # Fall 2016

18/24 credit-hour rule 0 7

Grade point average rule 2 1

Six-credit rule 4 2

Percentage-of-degree rule 1 8

These numbers do not constitute the total number of student-athlete ineligible. Several student-athletes were ineligible for several reasons.

Of the athletes determined to be ineligible to compete Spring 2016 and Fall 2016, 12 regained their eligibility to compete at UM and 3 did not return to UM.

**III**. **Rules Compliance**

UM reported the following 13 NCAA and/or BSC violations during the 2015-16 year:

* Coach texted a prospect when not permissible. (multiple cases)
* Assistant coach participated in voluntary activities with a student-athlete.
* Sport program exceeded maximum allowable countable athletically-related activities (two cases-one exceeded by 40 minutes with the other exceeding by 30 minutes).
* One student-athlete was not provided the required extra day off during the off-season
* Coach had impermissible off-campus contact with a prospect during an unofficial visit.
* Two impermissible phone calls to a prospect during a week when one allowed. (two cases)
* Coach participated in voluntary athletically-related activities with a student-athlete during wintersession assuming that constituted a regular academic term.
* Strength coach posted a video to his personal Twitter account showing student-athletes participating in voluntary athletically-related activities.
* Prior to the permissible date, coach indicated in writing that an offer of aid would be given to a prospect.

**IV**. **Athletic Director’s Statement**

The 2015-16 academic year was another great year for Grizzly athletics. We continue to focus on a threefold mission of academic excellence, athletic success, and service to the community. Some of the major accomplishments include:

The academic accomplishments of the student-athletes are well-documented in Section I. Student-athletes continue to outpace the general student population in credits completed, overall GPA, retention rates, and graduation success.

**Academic Excellence**

The annual Lindsay Honors Banquet held on May 3rd recognized 197 student-athletes for maintaining a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA. The President Awards, presented to the student-athletes with the highest GPAs over the previous two semesters, were taken home by Derek Crittenden of the Griz football team and Emily Kardash of the Montana soccer team. Derek, with a cumulative 4.0 GPA, is a five-time recipient and Emily received the award for the first time.

**Athletic Success**

The 2015-16 academic year marked a number of athletic successes for various Grizzly teams. The football team opened the year with a thrilling 38-35 win over then four-time national champion North Dakota State University in front of a sold-out crowd and on national television.

Football returned to the NCAA Division I FCS playoffs and defeated South Dakota State University in the first round. The men’s basketball team lost in the Big Sky Conference tournament championship game after another 20-win season.

In just its second year of existence, the women’s softball team made the Big Sky Conference tournament and lost to Sacramento State. Women’s softball head coach Jamie Pinkerton was selected as the 2016 Big Sky Conference Coach of the Year. The men’s outdoor track and field team finished second at the conference championship meet, the highest finish since 2002. Sammy Evans from the women’s team was named Most Valuable Athlete of the championship meet.

Overall, 13 Grizzly teams participated in post-season play. In the third year of the Griz/Cat Brawl of the Wild Series, a competition where points are awarded for head-to-head contests between Montana and Montana State, the Griz beat the Cats 12-5. The Griz have won the award all three years the competition has been in existence.

**Community Service**

Student-athletes contributed 2,000 hours of community service during the 2015-16 academic year. The “Griz in the Community” program, is supervised by new athletic academic advisor Charity Atteberry. Numerous non-profits, schools, and events benefit from this increased focus in giving back to the community. The student-athletes have also learned many valuable life-lessons.

**Coaching Staff Updates**

Shannon Schweyen was hired as head women’s basketball coach. She replaces longtime and legendary Lady Griz head coach Robin Selvig who announced his retirement in late July 2016. Schweyen spent 24 years as an assistant to Coach Selvig and is a graduate of the University of Montana where she was an All-American for the Lady Griz.

In another personnel move, Riley Corcoran was named play-by-play announcer for radio broadcasts of football and men’s basketball games. Riley replaces Mick Holien who served in that role for a number of years.

**Facilities**

The Washington-Grizzly Champions Center is well underway as all can see when walking outside the south end of the stadium. The 49,000+ square-foot, $14 million dollar facility is on schedule to be completed by Homecoming of 2017. It will house a new football locker room, student-athlete weight room, meeting rooms, and other support facilities for patrons at Grizzly football games. New turf was installed at Washington-Grizzly Stadium along with an upgraded video and scoreboard system on the sound end. New locker room facilities were built in the Adams Center that will open up more options for concerts and high school tournaments. The indoor batting facility on south campus has been completed and named in honor of the Jackson Contractor Group of Missoula in recognition of their lead gift towards the facility. The outdoor tennis courts in the middle of campus were resurfaced to mend cracks and asphalt displacement.