**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 2016-2017 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 9thFaculty 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 2016

Average term GPA 3.11 2.99

Average cumulative GPA 3.18 2.99

Average term credits 13.8 12

On Dean’s list 24.9% 21.7%

On academic probation 2.2% 6.5%

Spring 2017

Average term GPA 3.16 2.98

Average cumulative GPA 3.16 3.03

Average term credits 14.2 12.4

On Dean’s list 25.7% 23.5%

On academic probation 1.3% 3.6%

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

UM sport APR

Men’s Basketball 965

Men’s Cross Country 983

Football 954

Men’s Tennis 983

Men’s Track 957

Women’s Basketball 983

Women’s Cross Country 1000

Women’s Golf 991

Women’s Soccer 981

Women’s Softball 1000\*

Women’s Tennis 1000

Women’s Track 986

Women’s Volleyball 968

\*The softball APR score represents a two year cohort (2014-16).

\*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 2009-10 freshmen cohort)

Athletes All students

63% 48%

**II.** **Ineligibility for Competition, Spring 2017 and Fall 2017: Reasons and Number**

Reason # Spring 2017 # Fall 2017

18/24 credit-hour rule 0 5

Grade point average rule 6 1

Six-credit rule 6 2

Percentage-of-degree rule 2 6

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

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

UM reported the following 7 NCAA and/or BSC violations during the 2016-17 year:

* Video of student-athletes participating in voluntary activities was posted on social media.
* Assistant coach direct messages a prospect with a graphic that had the phrase “Griz Offer”. The prospect tweeted it thus making the offer public.
* Coach exceeded maximum number of phone calls to a prospect.
* A basketball scrimmage (required to be private) was mentioned in a news story thus making it public.
* Student-athlete received travel expenses to an away-from-home competition while enrolled in less than 12 credits (Violation was uncovered prior to the student-athlete competing.)
* Free lodging in a booster’s home, and one meal, were provided to a student-athlete parent.
* Men’s tennis uniforms did not have the required Big Sky Conference logo.

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

The 2016-17 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.

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. Some department highlights include:

**Academic Excellence**

The 25th annual Lindsay Honors Banquet held on April 25, 2017 recognized more than 200 student-athletes for maintaining a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA. It was the first time since the banquet was instituted the number of student-athletes honored exceeded 200. The President Awards, presented to the student-athletes with the highest GPAs over the previous two semesters, were taken home by Fabijan Krslovic from men’s basketball and Claire Dalman, a pole vaulter on the track and field team. Both maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Women’s cross-country, women’s softball, and women’s tennis earned NCAA Public Recognition Awards for programs ranking in the top 10 percent in their sport in the country for Academic Progress Rate (APR). APR is an annual scorecard of academic achievement calculated for all NCAA Division I sports teams. For the fourth straight year, Montana had multiple teams recognized.

**Athletic Success**

The 2016-17 academic year marked a number of athletic successes for various Grizzly teams. None more thrilling than the softball team winning their first Big Sky Conference tournament championship and participating in the NCAA tournament. In just its third year of existence, the softball program has been a huge success and a very popular addition to the university. Former head coach Jamie Pinkerton was named conference Coach of the Year for the second straight season.

The women’s cross-country team placed fifth in the conference, the team’s best finish since 2011. The women’s track and field team finished second at both the indoor and outdoor conference championship meets. The indoor team scored 102 points, a program record, despite not having a true indoor training facility. The outdoor team scored 116 points, second best in program history and just nine points back of conference champion Northern Arizona. There were a number of outstanding individual performances for both the men and women.

The Grizzly men’s tennis team made a terrific run in the Big Sky Conference championship tournament, falling to Idaho in the championship match. Overall, 12 Grizzly teams participated in post-season play.

**Community Service**

Student-athletes contributed 3,633 hours of community service during the 2016-17 academic year. The “Griz in the Community” program, is supervised by 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**

Women’s softball coach Jamie Pinkerton left to take a similar position at Iowa State University. A search is currently underway for his replacement.

Women’s golf coach Matt Higgins left to take an athletic administrative position at Upper Iowa University. Long-time men’s tennis coach Kris Nord has agreed to serve as the interim women’s golf coach until a replacement is found. We anticipate having a new women’s golf coach on board by January 1, 2018. Assistant tennis coach Jason Brown is filling in as interim men’s tennis coach until Kris returns.

Allison Lawrence was named head women’s volleyball coach on January 17, 2017. Allison has been an assistant with the program since 2010 and was a volleyball student-athlete at Oregon State University.

**Facilities**

Dedication of the Washington-Grizzly Champions Center is set for October 13, 2017. The 50,000+ square-foot, $14 million dollar facility will house a new football locker room, student-athlete weight room, meeting rooms, and other support facilities for patrons at Grizzly football games. It is a spectacular addition that will greatly improve the student-athlete experience at the University of Montana.

Installation of a new center-hung video/scoreboard system in the Adams Center is ongoing and will be operational before the 2017-18 basketball seasons. Private funds will pay for the entire project.

The Montana Board of Regents granted the university spending authority to move forward with improvements to the softball field. Permanent bleachers for 630+ patrons and permanent restrooms and a concession stand will replace the temporary bleachers, portable restrooms and current concession trailer. Private funds will once again fund the entire $625,000 project with completion anticipated prior to the start of the 2018 season.