

**Report to the CSUN Faculty Senate
by Faculty Athletics Representative Tina Kiesler
May 2014**

The Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) is a faculty member designated by the University's chief executive officer to represent the institution and its faculty in its relationship with the NCAA and its conference(s). The FAR's responsibilities involve academic integrity, institutional control and compliance, and the well-being of student-athletes.

1. Academic Integrity

Academic Success:

The Athletics Department's mission is one of *comprehensive excellence*. Each year the Athletics Department celebrates the academic accomplishments of student-athletes with the Varsity N honor roll for student-athletes who have completed one season of competition and have averaged a 3.2+ GPA over the previous spring and fall (2013) semesters. This year's celebration took place April 30. Of the seventy-two scholar-athletes honored at the celebration, 45 are new inductees. Twenty-seven student-athletes are returners. These 72 student-athletes represent all 19 of our Division I intercollegiate athletics teams and 33 different majors. Two student-athletes were acknowledged for earning the highest average GPA over the spring and fall 2013 semesters. Grant Weiss is a sophomore Marketing major and track & field scholar-athlete who earned a 3.895 GPA in 2013. Madalyne Handy is a sophomore Kinesiology—Applied Fitness major and a softball scholar-athlete who earned a 4.0 in 2013. She was also the 2013 winner of the Dr. Dianne Harrison Freshman Leadership Award. The men's and women's teams with the highest average GPAs across spring and fall 2013 were the women's tennis team (3.358) and men's cross-country team (2.981).

This is the inaugural year of the Dick Enberg Post-Graduate Scholarship for Academic Excellence. This \$5000 annual scholarship was awarded to Melissa Doll, a senior Math-Secondary Education major and water polo scholar-athlete. She is a three-time Academic All-American honoree.

Each year the Big West Conference honors a male and female scholar-athlete from each university in the conference. This year's CSUN Big West Conference Scholar-Athletes are Yarden Azulay and Cassandra (Casey) Hinger. Yarden is a junior Marketing major and a mid-fielder on the men's soccer team. Casey is a senior Psychology and Child and Adolescent-Development double-major and a middle-blocker on the women's volleyball team.

Academic Progress Rate (APR):

In 2004 Division I of the NCAA adopted the Academic Progress Rate as a measure of a team's academic performance on a term-by-term basis. Each student-athlete on athletic scholarship can earn two points per term, one point for staying academically eligible and another point for staying in school (or graduating). The APR is determined at the end of the academic year by dividing the number of points earned by all team members on athletic scholarship by the total points possible. The result is multiplied by 1000.

$$\text{APR} = \frac{[(\text{Retention Point} + \text{Eligibility Point}) * \text{Terms}] * \text{Student-Athletes on Ath. Aid}}{\text{Total Possible Points}} * 1000$$

At the start of each academic year we report the previous academic year's APR to the NCAA. (We will report 2013-14 APR for each team to the NCAA in Fall 2014.) Those data become public the following spring. The 2012-13 academic year APRs will become public May 14, 2014 at 11:30 PST and I will be happy to report the results to you at that time. The NCAA is interested in single-year APRs for each team

and multi-year APR over a four-year time period. This year the NCAA raised the minimum APR from 925 to 930. APRs below 930 may result in penalties going forward.

The most recent published APR data are for the 2011-12 academic year. In the 2011-12 academic year, both men's cross-country and women's cross-country teams had perfect single-year and multi-year APRs of 1000. Four teams had single-year APRs below 925. All four of those teams had multi-year APRs that exceeded the 925 minimum that was standard at that time. Two teams had multi-year APRs below 925. Both of those teams had single-year APRs that were well above 925—men's basketball (multi-year=923, single year=975) and men's golf (multi-year=921, single year=962).

The Matador Achievement Center:

The Matador Achievement Center was funded with an NCAA Accelerating Academic Success Grant. It opened in September 2013. The Center provides tutoring and mentoring for student-athletes, laptops and tablets for check-out, and space for study. The grant provided funding to increase the size of the leadership staff and increase the number of tutors and mentors. The Matador Achievement Center has become a source of pride for student-athletes.

2. Institutional Control and Compliance

The CSUN Athletics Department has monthly compliance meetings with coaches. I attend those meetings when possible. The Big West Conference office also holds regular compliance meetings for athletics personnel. A representative from the conference will be meeting with the athletics department May 19, 2014. Coaches also take an annual NCAA recruiting exam. The FAR proctors that exam and reports the results to the compliance staff and to the conference office. In addition, we have a compliance review committee in place that meets regularly. (The most recent meeting was Tuesday, April 29.) The NCAA holds an annual Regional Rules Seminar to provide review of its rules and education regarding upcoming changes in NCAA rules. This year's seminar is in early June in San Diego. CSUN will have wide representation at the meeting.

The NCAA used to categorizes violations into two categories --major or secondary. More recently they have moved to a four-category system. A category 1 violation is the most serious. Categories 3 and 4 are what would have been termed secondary violations in the old system. These are minor violations that do not include extra benefits or any significant recruiting benefits. CSUN had 10 violations this year, none of them major violations. I can provide a summary upon request. It is useful to benchmark the number of violations to that of the Big West Conference average. Ten violations was the average across the campuses in the Big West Conference.

Student Athletes' Well-being:

The Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) consists of student athlete representatives from all the intercollegiate athletic teams at Cal State Northridge. The student leaders determine their goals for the year and create an environment of enthusiasm, spirit, and inclusion on the campus. This year the SAAC members worked with the MEND program (Meet Every Need with Dignity) to adopt a needy family. The student-athletes raised money and provided their family with Christmas presents for the entire family. They participated in the Big West Coin Drive. In addition, each Friday different teams visited Granada Elementary School to assist with their reading program. These are only some examples of the SAAC's many enriching activities.