

**Report to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee
by Faculty Athletics Representative Tina Kiesler
California State University Northridge, September 1, 2011**

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

A. NCAA Academic Requirements

The NCAA is committed to academic achievement. Student-athletes are required to maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA), to enroll in at least 12 units and earn 6 units each semester, earn 18 units per year, and meet annual progress-toward-degree requirements in order to compete. In 1995 the NCAA started to collect graduation success rate (GSR) data. Their GSR data reflects the addition of incoming transfer students and allows institutions to subtract students who leave the institution prior to graduation but who would have been academically eligible to compete had they remained.

In 2004 Division 1 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 scholarship can earn two points per term, one point for staying academically eligible and another point for staying in school. The APR is determined at the end of the academic year by dividing the number of points earned by all team members on scholarship by the total points possible. The result is multiplied by 1000.

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

A graduation success rate of 50% was associated with an APR of 925. Thus, 925 has become the minimum APR per NCAA standards. APRs below 925 may result in penalties. (Note: The NCAA is considering raising the minimum APR to 930 in the future.)

Each May the NCAA publishes APR data on its website. The data from the 2009-10 academic year was made public May 2011. Eight Cal State Northridge teams earned perfect APRs in the 2009-10 academic year. Those teams are: Men's Swimming, Men's Volleyball, Men's Cross-Country, Women's Golf, Women's Tennis, Women's Indoor Track,

Outdoor Track, and Cross-Country. Both the Women's and Men's Cross Country teams had perfect *multiyear* APRs (2006-07 through 2009-10).¹

Our teams' academic progress rates have steadily improved since 2004-05. In 2004-05 nine of our teams were below the 925 desired minimum. This year only one team is below 925, the men's basketball team. Their 2009-10 APR is 857 and their multi-year APR (an average across four years) is 871. They have now entered their third year of penalties based on their historical APRs. In addition to the previous penalties of reduced scholarships and practice time, this year the team will not be eligible for post-season play. The men's basketball team is dedicated to academic progress and achievement. The coaches monitor class attendance and student performance. The FAR meets monthly with each senior during the basketball season. The team attends regular study table, mentoring and tutoring sessions. There is regular communication among the coaching staff, the academic advisors for student athletes, the FAR, and Athletics administration. In addition, the coaches have revised their recruiting criteria. As a result, the team GPA has continued to improve and all indicators point to a perfect APR for the 2010-11 academic year.

B. Academic Excellence

Sixty-one student-athletes were named to the 2011 Varsity N Honor Roll. These Matador scholars earned a minimum 3.2 GPA for Spring and Fall 2010 semesters.

Two Cal State Northridge student athletes received the Big West Scholar Athletes of the Year Award March 10 in Anaheim: Jillian Stapf is a Kinesiology major and a women's water polo athlete and Nicholas (Nick) Delio is a criminal justice major and a men's golf athlete.

C. Missed Class Policy

Student athletes choose their courses with the assistance of their academic advisors. They do their best to choose sections of courses that minimize missed class time during their sports season while trying to maximize their progress towards their degree. This can be a challenge during the current economic times. Many departments have reduced the selection of course sections, making it difficult for student athletes to find sections that fit with the schedule of their university-endorsed athletic activities. I'd like to remind faculty that students are trying their best to minimize missed class time. Athletic competition is a university-sanctioned activity and student-athletes are supposed to meet with their professors during the first week of classes to a) provide their professors with

¹http://www.ncaa.org/wps/portal/ncaahome?WCM_GLOBAL_CONTEXT=/ncaa/NCAA/Academics+and+Athletes/Education+and+Research/Academic+Reform/APR/2010/2008-09_School_APR_Data.html

a letter that details the dates of University-approved athletic events (faculty are supposed to sign this letter to indicate they have received it) and b) discuss how the professor would like the student-athlete to complete any activities that may be missed due to those university-approved athletic events.

A formal missed class policy was adopted by the Faculty Senate and is listed in the University Catalog² as follows:

When representing the University in official curriculum-related, University-approved activities requires a student to miss classes, faculty are expected to provide, within reason, opportunity to make up any work or exams that are missed.

To be eligible for such accommodation, the student is obligated to provide the instructor of the class with written documentation signed by the faculty, staff member or administrator supervising the activity, giving specific information concerning the activity, its location, and the dates and times when class attendance is not possible. This documentation must be submitted to the instructor during the first week of the semester or as soon as the information becomes known. Instructors may set limits on the number of classes that may be missed for which special accommodation to make up missed work will be allowed. The process for making up missed class work is the prerogative of the instructor and shall be communicated to the affected students during the first week of classes or as soon as the need for accommodation becomes known...

Absence from class for official curriculum-related, University-approved activities does not relieve students from responsibility for any part of the course work required during the period of absence.

University sponsors of these activities have an obligation to respect the importance of regular class attendance for successful academic performance and to minimize the number of such absences. Instructional faculty have an obligation to respect the importance of such student participation, and to assist student participants in meeting their academic obligations.

² <http://www.csun.edu/catalog/undergraduatepoliciesandprocedures.html>

Institutional Control & Compliance:

NCAA regulations are reviewed regularly within the Athletics Department. The Compliance Director meets with coaches and with student-athletes to review NCAA regulations. Since NCAA regulations are numerous and they change annually, the Compliance Director meets with all the coaches, department administrators and the FAR to review the changes. Our campus also has a Compliance Review Committee which is chaired by the Faculty Athletics Representative. Furthermore, coaches are required to pass an annual NCAA Recruiting Exam (which is proctored by the Faculty Athletics Representative.)

The NCAA categorizes violations as major or secondary. A secondary violation is a minor violation defined by the NCAA as "an isolated or inadvertent violation that provides or intends to provide only minimal recruiting, competitive or other advantages. Secondary violations do not include extra benefits or any significant recruiting benefits. If a school commits several secondary violations, they may collectively be considered a major infraction. Secondary violations occur frequently and are usually resolved administratively."³ CSUN had 6 secondary violations this year. I can provide a summary upon request.

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 a Christmas tree and wrapped Christmas presents for the entire family. They also assisted with the Northridge Games—an activity clinic for children with special needs. 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.

³<http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/NCAA/Issues/Enforcement/Rules+Enforcement+glossary+of+terms>