Faculty Senate Athletic Committee Minutes, November 3, 2006

“Chair” Scott Unruh called the meeting was called to order at 11:15 am. Members in attendance were Sam Lopez, Jaime Lundgren, Pat Seaton, Janet Steele, Jane Strawhecker, Nita Unruh, and Susan Williams. Kyle Bowers, Claude Louishomme, Jon McBride, and Ken Messersmith were absent. Martha Kruse, representing the faculty senate, read the charge of the committee and asked for nominations for chair and secretary. Scott Unruh and Janet Steele were unanimously elected to continue serving as chair and secretary, respectively.

Scott updated the new members of the committee on its most recent accomplishments. Over the last 18 months, the committee reviewed and revised the compliance manual. Laure Smith and Aaron Estes did the majority of the work revising the manual. Aaron also worked to develop an on-line questionnaire to assess student-athletes’ expectations and satisfaction with the university. In addition, we reviewed current NCAA GPA data. Additional roles for this committee are to hear appeals regarding eligibility based on such things as ACT scores, coursework GPA, and NCAA violations.

Scott next outlined the role of the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR, a position he also holds). He attended the national FAR association meeting in San Diego as well as the fall and spring RMAC meetings, noting that the RMAC Student Athletic Committee meeting overlapped with the fall RMAC FAR meeting. Scott also said he will try to attend a compliance seminar in Denver this February.

Scott next described the CHAMPS Life Skills Program and asked Jaime to summarize other NCAA leadership programs. Shawn Fairbanks oversees the UNK CHAMPS program. Last year was our orientation to the program, and the program, which is designed to prepare student-athletes for life beyond college, actually began this fall. The program includes such activities as speakers, seminars, workshops, conferences, and job fairs.

The main task of the committee this year is to review the data from the expectations and satisfaction questionnaire. If we find this to be a useful tool, Scott suggested presenting it at the 2008 NCAA meeting that will have sessions focusing on assessment. In addition, Scott said that he has talked to other FARs and thinks we are ahead of many institutions in trying to assess our student-athletes. Data from last spring are available for our committee to review, but no data have been collected so far this fall. There was some discussion as to how often the data should be collected (every athlete August and May, or new student-athletes in August and continuing student-athletes in May), but we decided it would be best to examine the data already collected before making that determination. Scott said he would have the data from last spring for the committee members at our next meeting and would also make sure data from incoming athletes this fall is collected.

Pat suggested we should have a summary of the data from all appeals the committee has heard so that new members of the committee know the history of those appeals. The committee felt this was a good suggestion and Scott said he would try to organize those data. Scott also said he would report back on the performance of our coaches on the exams they must take in order to recruit off-campus.
The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am. The next meeting is scheduled for December 1 at 10:15 am.