

This Report is intended to summarize for the University community both the major developments related to Boston College's intercollegiate athletics program and the Athletics Advisory Board's (Rep0 Tc2(t)-51C.a-3(TB)Jt(n)v(po)ic hvsoontife7 Tcs-1(tiTd[n])l((n)ac)8(sad(n)-1(timt)-69((n)c)8(s y)6)-1 academic achievement as part of its Academic Performance Program (APP). These are the Academic Progress Rate (APR) and the Graduation Success Rate (GSR), and they are applied at each NCAA Division I member school for all full or partial scholarship student-athletes.

The APR looks at the eligibility, retention and graduation of all athletically-aided student-athletes (and, for teams that do not award athletic aid, all recruited student-athletes). The APR awards 1 point for each student-athlete who is academically eligible to compete in the next semester and an additional point if that student-athlete returns to school for the next semester. For the academic year, therefore, each student-athlete could receive a maximum of

four points for the fall and spring semesters

to the second team. In women's cross country, graduate students Laura Hottenrott and Danielle Winslow and sophomore Isabelle Kennedy made the All-

Connell School of Nursing students. The health care discussion also covered concussion policies, with some AAB members expressing the opinion that BC policies rely too heavily on self-reporting by student-athletes and on return-to-play decisions made by doctors who have a relationship with BC. The final topic was the game-day experience for BC home football games. Brad said that tailgating had been allowed this past year on the Brighton Campus for the first time. Since a majority of BC football game attendees do not drive themselves to the game, he also said that, in the future, he would like to establish a non-vehicular tailgating opportunity somewhere on campus. Asked for feedback, one AAB member expressed enthusiasm for the easy exit following games afforded by the reserved-space parking system on Shea Field this past year, but another felt that the Shea Field atmosphere had become less enthusiastic, perhaps because of restrictions on pedestrian access.

In December, the AAB met with three representatives from BC's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), from the sports of ice hockey, sailing and track and field. Asked about the quality of their interactions with Learning Resources for Student-Athletes (LRSA), the students responded enthusiastically, citing the academic support they had received and the flexibility of counselors and tutors in arranging meeting times. In response to another question, the students said that they generally sought academic help from LRSA first, but that LRSA counselors often pointed them to faculty members for additional help. All three students reported at least some amount of difficulty in finding classes that meshed with their practice and competition schedules, and they said that some form of priority registration for student-athletes would be very beneficial. While there has been considerable opposition to this concept in the past, one AAB member argued that the time demands on varsity athletes are of a higher magnitude than those imposed by other extra-curricular activities and advocated revisiting the issue. The student were asked if they had had any success in approaching faculty members for overrides into closed sections of classes, and they had, but also said that faculty members differed widely in their understanding of student-athlete time demands. Responding to a question on how they are perceived by non-athlete BC students, the SAAC members felt that there was substantial lack of understanding of the time demands that student-athletes face. This sometimes contributes to a perception that athletes are not serious students. In response to another question, the three students said that they appreciated BC's Jesuit tradition, citing the ideas of care for the whole person, ref(c)TJ-0.001 Tc Or8001 Tc Or

the Connors Center, which had arisen at the preceding AAB meeting, Patrice explained that,

members argued that the lack of a three-meter diving board would put BC at a competitive disadvantage in recruiting varsity swimming and diving student-athletes and would also jeopardize the whole swimming program, as it would signal a lack of commitment to swimming as a varsity sport. Home swim meets would require more time, because the lack of a separate diving well would mean that swimming and diving events would have to share the deep pool and could not occur simultaneously. Questions were also raised about the implications for the varsity tennis program of reducing the number of indoor courts from four in the existing Recreation Complex to three in the new facility and of eliminating outdoor tennis courts altogether. More generally, some AAB members argued that the AAB should have been asked for its advice about the plans for the new Center before those plans advanced as far as they had at the time of our meeting. Following the meeting, several AAB members developed a supplement, containing additional discussion points, details on aquatics facilities at other schools in the Boston area and at other ACC schools and comments from local and national swimming and diving coaches and officials. A majority of AAB members voted to include this supplement along with the meeting minutes.

At the beginning of the year, the AAB welcomed newly-elected members Stacey Barone (CSON) and Tracy Regan (Economics). At the end of the academic year, Kathy Bailey (Political Science) and Mike Cassidy (Law) completed their elected terms on the Board, and Sharon Beckman (Law) and Michael Naughton (Physics) were elected to new three-year terms, beginning June 2016.

Please feel free to seek out any AAB member with questions and concerns you may have. One of the Board's primary functions is to serve as a channel for communication between the academic and athletics programs, and we are always open to your questions or other input.

Kathleen Bailey (Political Science)	Stacey Barone (CSON)
John J. Burns (Office of the Provost)	Michael Cassidy (Law)
Donald Fishman (Communication)	Burton Howell (Intersections)
Michael Malec (Sociology)	Tracy Regan (Economics)
Robert Taggart (CSOM, AAB Chair and Faculty Athletics Representative)	