

Athletics Certification Peer-Review Team Report

University of Arkansas, Little Rock

Evaluation of the Self-Study

Accuracy

The judgment of the peer-review team is that the self-study was an accurate representation of the circumstances for intercollegiate athletics at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock. The peer-review team reached this decision through on-campus interviews with 49 individuals and examination of the documents provided onsite.

Broad-Based Participation in the Self-Study Process

The judgment of the peer-review team is that the self-study process included representative and active participation from across the university and relevant larger community. Multiple perspectives were included in the self-study process. Also, ample opportunities were made available for input from various university constituencies throughout the self-study process.

Governance and Commitment to Rules Compliance

1.1 Institutional Control, Presidential Authority and Shared Responsibilities

A. Evaluation of the Athletics Program in Relation to the Operating Principle.

Committee on Athletics Certification Identified Issues

The committee did not identify any issues.

B. Additional Peer-Review Team Issues

None.

C. Opportunities for Enhancement

None.

1.2 Rules Compliance

A. Evaluation of the Athletics Program in Relation to the Operating Principle.

Committee on Athletics Certification Identified Issues

The committee did not identify any issues.

B. Additional Peer-Review Team Issues

None.

C. Opportunities for Enhancement

None.

Academic Integrity

2.1 Academic Standards

A. Evaluation of the Athletics Program in Relation to the Operating Principle.

Committee on Athletics Certification Identified Issues

The committee did not identify any issues.

B. Additional Peer-Review Team Issues

None.

C. Opportunities for Enhancement

None.

2.2 Academic Support

A. Evaluation of the Athletics Program in Relation to the Operating Principle.

Committee on Athletics Certification Identified Issues

The committee did not identify any issues.

B. Additional Peer-Review Team Issues

None.

C. Opportunities for Enhancement

None.

Equity and Student-Athlete Well-Being

3.1 Gender Issues

A. Evaluation of the Athletics Program in Relation to the Operating Principle.

Committee on Athletics Certification Identified Issues

1. Operating Principle 3.1 requires institutions to develop and implement an institutional plan to address gender issues in the intercollegiate athletics program. Acceptable plans for improvement must contain specific measurable goals and steps to achieve the goals. After reviewing Page Nos. 74, 75 and 91 of your institution's self-study report, the NCAA Division I Committee on Athletics Certification (hereinafter referred to as "committee") noted your institution's gender-issues plan in the program area of accommodation of interests and abilities does not contain specific measurable goals. Further, the committee noted that your institution stated the participation rate of female student-athletes is 49 percent. However, the committee is unclear whether the female student-athlete participation rate is proportionate to female students generally due to the lack of data provided. Therefore, your institution must revise its gender-issues plan to include specific measurable goals in the program area of accommodation of interests and abilities, including data regarding the proportionality of female student-athletes in relation to female students generally. Further, your institution must demonstrate that its revised gender-issues plan was developed using broad-based participation and has received formal institutional approval.

Peer-Review Team Report

Rationale as to how the committee's issue has been addressed:

Based on our review of respective documents provided by your institution, and based on interviews with designated personnel conducted during the peer-review team visit, it was determined that your institution has revised its gender-issues plan to include specific measurable goals in the program area of accommodation of interests and abilities, including data regarding the proportionality of female student-athletes in relation to female students generally. Further, your institution has demonstrated that its revised gender-issues plan was developed using broad-based participation and has received formal institutional approval. Accordingly, the peer-review team concludes that this issue has been resolved.

2. Operating Principle 3.1 requires institutions to develop and implement an institutional plan to address gender issues in the intercollegiate athletics program. Acceptable plans for improvement must contain specific measurable goals and steps to achieve the goals. After reviewing Page No. 91 of your institution's self-study, the committee noted your institution's gender-issues plan in the area of accommodation of interest and abilities does not clearly indicate how the deficiency will be rectified with a measurable goal or specific steps to achieve the goal. Further, the committee noted that administration of a survey alone does not constitute sufficient steps in addressing the deficiency. Therefore, your institution must revise its current gender-issues plan in the area of accommodation of interests and abilities to ensure that it contains specific measurable goals and specific steps to achieve the goals, including an additional step(s) other than the use of a survey.

Peer-Review Team Report

Rationale as to how the committee's issue has been addressed:

Based on our review of documents provided by your institution and based on interviews of designated personnel, the peer-review team agrees that your institution has revised its current gender-issues plan in the area of accommodation of interests and abilities to ensure that it contained specific measurable goals and specific steps to achieve the goals, including an additional step other than the use of a survey. Accordingly, the peer-review team concludes that this issue has been resolved.

3. Operating Principle 3.1 requires institutions to develop and implement an institutional plan to address gender issues in the intercollegiate athletics program. Further, institutional plans for improvement must be written, stand-alone documents that contain specific steps to achieve the measurable goals identified by the institution. After reviewing Page Nos. 82 through 84 and 93 of your institution's self-study report, the committee noted your institution's gender-issues plan in the program area of locker rooms, practice and competitive facilities lacks specificity and does not fully address all of the deficiencies noted in the review. Therefore, your institution must revise its current gender-issues plan in the program area of locker rooms, practice and competitive facilities to ensure that it includes all of the deficiencies noted in the review and contains measurable goals and specific steps for achieving the goals. A revised plan for improvement must be developed using broad-based participation and receive formal institutional approval.

Peer-Review Team Report

Rationale as to how the committee's issue has been addressed:

Based on the examination of documents provided by your institution and based on interviews of designated personnel, the peer-review team agrees that your institution has revised its current gender-issues plan in the program area of locker rooms, practice and competitive facilities to ensure that it includes and addresses the deficiencies noted in the review and does contain measurable goals and specific steps for achieving those goals. It was further determined that a revised plan for improvement has been developed using broad-based participation and has received formal institutional approval. Accordingly, the peer-review team concludes that this issue has been resolved.

B. Additional Peer-Review Team Issues

None.

C. Opportunities for Enhancement

None.

3.2 Minority Issues

A. Evaluation of the Athletics Program in Relation to the Operating Principle.

Committee on Athletics Certification Identified Issues

The committee did not identify any issues.

B. Additional Peer-Review Team Issues

None.

C. Opportunities for Enhancement

None.

3.3 Student-Athlete Well-Being

A. Evaluation of the Athletics Program in Relation to the Operating Principle.

Committee on Athletics Certification Identified Issues

1. Operating Principle 3.3 requires an institution to provide evidence that the well-being of student-athletes and the fairness of their treatment is monitored, evaluated and addressed on a continuing basis. In order to demonstrate conformity with this operating principle, an institution must demonstrate that it conducts exit interviews via in-person meetings and/or conference calls in each sport with a sample of student-athletes whose eligibility has expired in accordance with NCAA Constitution 6.3.2. After reviewing Page Nos. 118 and 119 of your institution's self-study report as well as supplemental material dated June 19, 2008, the committee noted that your institution has an exit interview process for student-athletes, including the ability for a student-athlete to choose an in-person interview or private completion of a questionnaire. However, your institution stated that it does not conduct student-athlete exit interviews via in-person meetings and/or teleconferences in each sport with a sample of student-athletes as student-athletes do not choose the in-person interview process in sufficient numbers. Therefore, your institution must provide written evidence that it conducts student-athlete exit interviews via in-person meetings and teleconferences in each sport with a sample of student-athletes or your institution must develop a plan for improvement to address this issue.

Peer-Review Team Report

Rationale as to how the committee's issue has been addressed:

The NCAA Division I Committee on Athletics Certification Analysis indicated that the institution must provide evidence that it conducts in-person student-athlete exit interviews in each sport or has a plan to do so. The peer-review, through campus interviews and a review of written documents, confirms that your institution has a plan in place to conduct in-person exit interviews and that the plan was developed with broad-based participation and has received institutional approval. Based on this information, the peer-review team concludes that the finding of the committee has been appropriately addressed.

B. Additional Peer-Review Team Issues

None.

C. Opportunities for Enhancement

None.

Individuals Interviewed on Campus

Name	Title
Anderson, Joel	chancellor
Atkins, Kirby	men's track and field student-athlete; student-athlete advisory committee member
Bailey, John S.	board of vsitors member
Barakivic, Amila	women's volleyball student-athlete; student-athlete advisory committee member
Becker, Keith	men's golf student-athlete; student-athlete advisory committee member
Belcher, David	provost and vice chancellor academic affairs; steering committee chair
Brimmage, Ambrea	women's track and field student-athlete; student-athlete advisory committee member
Briscoe, David	faculty athletic representative; professor, department of sociology & anthropology
Brown, Greg B.	board of vsitors member
Burgess, Amy	women's swimming head coach
Carr, Jim	athletics committee chair; associate professor construction management
Chastain; Charles	professor of criminal justice
Cherubin, Hervil	athletics committee member; assistant professor institute of government
Churchill, Chelsea	women's swimming student-athlete; student-athlete advisory committee member
Compton, Van	women's volleyball head coach
Cooates, Bob	director of human resources
Dannaway, Jan	director of student-athlete academic services
Delgado, Freddy	women's soccer head coach
Di Francisco, Stefanie	women's soccer student-athlete; student-athlete advisry committee member
Edwards, Shane	men's basketball student-athlete; student-athlete advisory committee member
Ferra, Dennis	Trojan Athletic Foundation
Foley, Joe	women's baketball head coach
Fraiche, Mallory	women's golf student-athlete; student-athlete advisory committee member
Goldner, Chuck	dean emeritus and professor school of law; academic integrity subcommittee chair
Guffey, Daniel	men's baseball student-athlete; student-athlete advisory committee member
Harrison, Tammie	director of admissions
Hoeft, Thea	division chief of academic advising
Houston, Kyle	men's track and cross country student-athlete; student-athlete advisory committee member
Howell, Sheena	women's track and field student-athlete; student-athlete advisory committee member
Kumpuris, Dean	chair, board of visitors
Lynch, Tom	associate dean College of Science and Math; equity and student-athlete well-being subcommittee chair
Norwood, Scott	men's baseball head coach
Norwood, Wyn	men's golf head coach
Nunez, Andrea	senior woman administrator

Name	Title
Oliverio, Kathy	chief report writer
Peterson, Chris	director of athletics
Powell, Lars	faculty, college of business
Prince, Bennie	athletics committee member; health science teaching degree instructor
Robertson, Sandra	chief of staff and director of budget
Sanders, Karen	Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator
Shields, Steve	men's basketball head coach
Sitzmann, Kim	women's basketball student-athlete; student-athlete advisory committee member
Sugg, Alan	president, University of Arkansas System
Turner, Richard	assistant athletic director/compliance
Watts, Michael	athletics committee member; associate professor of accounting
Weyenborg, Anne	women's tennis student-athlete; student-athlete advisory committee member
Williams, Milton	men's and women's track/cross country head coach
Wilson, Abby	women's tennis head coach
Winston, Jeannie	chief information officer and computing services; governance and rules compliance subcommittee chair

Institutional Records Reviewed on Campus

Records Reviewed
EADA forms for last three years
compliance policies and procedures (e.g., compliance manual)
documentation of conference involvement in reviewing compliance efforts
documentation of secondary rules violations for last three years
documentation related to periodic evaluation of rules compliance program by some authority outside athletics
information from student-athletes' exit interviews
information regularly reported to chief executive officer, faculty athletics representative and athletics director concerning the academic performances of sport teams
job descriptions, contracts and evaluation forms for athletics staff (and others outside the athletics department who are involved in rules compliance)
minutes from steering committee meetings
minutes of athletics board meetings for last three years
minutes of each subcommittee meeting
policies and procedures for athletics department
published policies of governing board
random sampling of student-athlete eligibility files
sports and facility schedules - for all sports
student-athlete handbook