

Physical Education Committee Report
Elaine Marzluff, Chair

Two items of eligibility were considered at the 2003-2004 faculty athletic representative meetings. The first dealt with graduate student eligibility. The faculty athletic representatives voted 5-4 (Grinnell dissenting) to accept the following statement, which becomes item 1.01 in the Eligibility section of the Code of Conduct of the Midwest Conference.

A student-athlete who is enrolled in a graduate or professional school of the institution he or she previously attended as an undergraduate (regardless of whether the individual has received a United States baccalaureate degree or its equivalent), a student-athlete who is enrolled and seeking a second baccalaureate or equivalent degree at the same institution while taking course work that would lead to the equivalent of another major or degree as defined and documented by the institution, may participate in intercollegiate athletics, provided the student has eligibility remaining and such participation occurs within the applicable 10 semester/15 quarter period set forth in Bylaw 14.2 (page 91 in the 2002-2003 NCAA Manual).

The faculty athletic representatives voted unanimously (9-0) to adopt the following policy on red-shirting, which becomes item 5.0 under the Eligibility section of the Code of Conduct of the Midwest Conference.

The MWC does not permit the practice of "red-shirting," i.e. withholding a player from participation in a given sport for an entire season, but permitting the player to practice, for the purpose of extending eligibility to a fifth academic year.

With regards to transfer student who red-shirted previously, the faculty athletic representatives rejected the following policy (5-5, Grinnell in the affirmative)

Transfer Students—Transfer students who were red-shirted at their previous institution will use a season of eligibility in that sport.

Thus, the conference continues to abide by the NCAA policy for Transfer Students which is:

Transfer Students—Transfer students who were red-shirted at their previous institution will not lose a season of eligibility in that sport.

The other major item of business in the Midwest Conference this year was the restructuring of the conference office. With the retirement of Commissioner Dr. Ralph Shivley planned for June 2004, restructuring of the conference office became necessary. In the spring of 2003, the faculty athletic representatives voted to move from the model of volunteer faculty commissioner assisted by a paid full time assistant commissioner to a full time paid commissioner (assistant commissioner disappears). This move necessitated changes to the Midwest conference constitution. A restructuring committee was formed

(Dee Fairchild was a member) to consider how to structure that change. The conference also affirmed the need for a second position to assist the commissioner to meet the increased demands made by the NCAA on the conference. The nature and duties of this second position, which currently exists in the form of an NCAA sponsored internship, will be subject of future discussions.

On the national level, at the January NCAA conference, several Division III reform proposals were adopted including an end to the practice of "red-shirting," a reduction in the length of playing and practice seasons, and the creation of limitations on practice and competition in the nontraditional season. All of these changes are consistent with existing Midwest conference policies, and it was gratifying to see at the national level, reform that makes all of Division III athletics consistent with our long standing conference philosophy.