

Physical Education Committee Report 2008-2009 AY  
Prepared by Elaine Marzluff, Chair

Committee Members: Elaine Marzluff, Chair; Gail Bonath, Greg Wallace, Heather Benning, Andy Hamilton, Alec Moore (student representative)

As chair of the committee, I represent Grinnell as the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) at the Fall and Spring Midwest Conference (MWC) Meetings. Several major changes to the MWC code were proposed at these meetings and they are summarized below. The conference by-laws state that any major changes to the code must be approved by the full faculties at each institution. Ultimately the final institutional vote is cast by the President.

At the fall MWC meeting, we passed (19-1, both Grinnell votes in favor) legislation for a non-traditional men's tennis season. This was approved by the Grinnell faculty at the February 19, 2009 faculty meeting. President Osgood voted in favor of the change, which was formally adopted by the conference at the spring MWC meeting. The change will take effect in the Fall of 2009.

At the spring MWC meeting, legislation was passed to expand the number of contests played by baseball (14-3 with 2 abstentions, Grinnell FAR opposed, Athletic Director(AD) in support) and softball (15-4, Grinnell FAR opposed, AD in support), and to expand the non-traditional women's tennis season (19-0). At the April 20, 2009 faculty meeting, the Grinnell faculty voted against the expansion of the softball and baseball seasons, and in favor of expansion of the women's tennis non-traditional season. President Osgood voted against the expansion of the baseball and softball seasons and in favor of the women's tennis non-traditional season. The results of the votes of the other MWC schools will be reported at the Fall 2009 MWC meeting.

Finally, at the spring MWC meeting, a first reading of legislation passed to create non-traditional seasons for the six fall sports (12-7, Grinnell FAR opposed, AD in support). In addition, a first reading of legislation that would remove conference restrictions on off-campus recruiting and adopt full NCAA rules was passed (11-8, both Grinnell votes opposed). Both of these proposals will be considered for a second reading at the Fall 2009 MWC meeting, and will come to the full faculty if they pass.

On-campus, the committee primarily collected information for a report at the ACM Dean's meeting in June 2009 on the "Intentional integration of academic and athletic programs". This is work supported by a FaCE (Faculty Career Enhancement) grant. Representatives from the committee met with each of the three divisions, the student athletic advisory committee, representatives from student affairs and the admissions office to consider ways in which athletics and academics currently overlap, and possibilities for further strengthening these ties. Further campus discussions and an ACM workshop are planned for the Fall of 2009.

## **Appendix: Summary of MWC legislation for 2008-2009**

### **Non-traditional men's tennis season**

#### **Summary:**

This proposal would be for a non-traditional season for men's tennis that would run from the first day of classes fall term until October 15<sup>th</sup>

Season shall include athletically-related activities, but shall exclude any playing schedule against outside competition, travel or missed class time with

- a) Maximum four week period;
- b) 20 total contact hours with no more than two hours per week day and up to four hours on any Saturday or Sunday per weekend.
- c) One ITA Regional Tournament

**Rationale:** It is the recommendation of the Championships Committee that the sport of Men's Tennis be afforded the same opportunities for the same non-traditional season as that of Men's Track, Softball, and Baseball. The Committee believes the sport of men's tennis faces the same issues regarding retention and fund raising the other "spring-starting" sports face.

### **Expansion of the Baseball Season**

**Proposed wording:** Season shall consist of a maximum of 36 games, with no more than 28 games that may be played outside the primary spring academic break, plus the conference playoffs and the NCAA championship.

**Old Wording:** Season shall consist of a maximum of 34 games, with no more than 28 games that may be played outside the primary spring academic break, plus the conference playoffs and NCAA championship.

**Rationale:** This would bring baseball to 90% of the number of game allowed by the NCAA and be equitable with other sports in the MWC. The athletes that play baseball should be given the same opportunity as the athletes in other sports.

### **Expansion of the Softball Season**

**Proposed wording:** varsity competition: season shall consist of a maximum of 35 games, with no more than 28 games that may be played outside the primary academic break, plus the conference playoffs and the NCAA championships."

Old Wording: season shall consist of a maximum of 34 games, with no more than 28 games that may be played outside the primary spring academic break, plus the conference playoffs and NCAA championship.

Rationale: This would be consistent with the 90% rule in the conference. Our sport plays a lot of its schedule games on weekends so we have limited missed class time. With the cross over tournament being 5 games – it is not very feasible to schedule 34 games. (difficult to schedule single games – cost prohibitive)

### **Expansion of Women's Tennis Spring Season**

Proposed wording: “A maximum of six consecutive weeks may be used in the non-traditional season or one week of spring break plus five consecutive weeks of six total weeks while playing at least one competition.”

Old Wording: “A maximum of four consecutive weeks may be used in the non-traditional season or one week of spring break plus three consecutive weeks for a maximum of four weeks total while playing at least one competition.”

Rationale: With men's tennis receiving non-traditional season practice time beginning in the fall of 2009, their weeks of contact with the coach are moving from 12/13 to around 16/17 (the NCAA guidelines allow for 19 weeks to be used over two semesters). Currently the women's weeks are 8/9 in the fall and 4 in the spring (12/13). An increase of two weeks in the spring, from 4 to 6, would bring greater balance between the two genders. Moving to six weeks in the spring would allow for coaches to schedule an ample number of matches on the weekends so that less class time would be missed by the women's student-athletes. Six weeks in the spring would allow for the MWC AQ team to properly AQ team to properly prepare for the NCAA tournament.