To: Richard L. Wood, PhD, UNM Faculty Senate President

From: Marie L. Lobo, PhD, RN, FAAN, Chair, 2010-11 Faculty Senate Athletic Council

RE: 2010-11 Annual Report

The Athletic Council developed a set of tasks to accomplish during the 2010-11 academic year. The Council members worked well together and shared the responsibilities of the Council. The Council found the Athletic Department open and available to answer questions. The Athletic Department worked with the Council to resolve any issues that arose. The Annual Report from the Athletic Council is developed around the tasks set for the Council at the beginning of the year.

1. Continue to monitor and examine the Athletic Department Budget - building on the work of 2009-2010

   The Athletic Council continued discussions with the Athletic Department about the budget. At this point in time the only I&G money for Athletics is the half of the utilities bill which UNM pays for, with Athletics paying the rest. The Athletic Department has taken the same cuts as everyone else within the University. It should be noted that the NCAA economic report of the Athletic Department requires different accounting standards than those used by UNM. An analysis of the economic impact of both UNM Athletics and outside events held at The Pit or University Stadium was shared with the Council.

2. Participate in the evaluation of the Academic Support of the Athletic Department for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (this is a major endeavor and the committee is appointed from the President's office).

   The report will be completed this summer. The members of the Evaluation Committee interviewed, Academic Advising Staff, members of the Provost Office, the Admissions Office, the Compliance Office, student athletes, members of the faculty, members of the Athletic Department Administration, the Faculty Athletic Representative and others; for a comprehensive review of the academic support for athletes at UNM. Overall great strides have been made within the past 5 years to improve the academic support for student athletes. The report will be made available to the Faculty Senate when completed.

3. Continue team liaison program.

   Each team had a liaison with a faculty or community member of the Athletic Council. Each team had visits from their faculty liaison, as well as faculty liaisons attending sports events.

4. Develop additional electronic evaluations of athlete’s academic/athletic experience with the goal of receiving increased information from students and evaluate use of information.
The Gender, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee worked on five main projects this academic year:

a) Reporting on last year’s Gender, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee student-athlete survey to the Athletic Council as a whole. This report included both the statistical data as well as the committee’s opinions on what issues were most important to the student-athletes, what some of the weaknesses of the survey were, and how the survey could be improved.

b) Discussing issues of concern to tackle this academic year. The decision was, after consulting graduation rate and GPA data on UNM student-athletes, to investigate why African-American student-athletes at UNM perform significantly lower in these areas than all other UNM student-athletes.

c) Forming a joint subcommittee with the Athletic Department (represented by Henry Villegas) in order to better investigate this discrepancy. This joint subcommittee ended up involving people from across the UNM community, including African-American Student Services, Africana Studies, and individuals with specific knowledge and expertise in the area. The committee looked at and discussed data from both UNM and other comparable universities (mostly Mountain West schools) and decided as a first step to ask the African-American student-athlete themselves what their perceptions of their academic experiences at UNM were.

d) Creating a survey for African-American student-athletes in order to begin to understand their perceptions of their academic experiences at UNM.

e) Reworking and redistributing the general student-athlete survey from the previous year in order to gain a second year of data.

The findings from last year’s electronic survey were discussed in the Athletic Council. Recommendations made to the Athletic Department. The survey was reevaluated and distributed again this spring. The Student Athlete Advisory Committee was recruited to encourage more students to complete the survey. Approximately, 18% completed the first one. The results of this year’s survey are not available.

5. Governance, Compliance and Fiscal Integrity Subcommittee will continue to work with the Athletic Department on the use of University Marks and Logos. (A response to the Route 66 Casino commercial from last year).

The Subcommittee worked with Faculty Senate and other University officials on the development of guidelines for the use of University Marks and Logos. A request for using UNM Marks on an alcohol related product was discussed with a recommendation that permission not be granted.

6. Continue working with ASUNM on a revised Absence Policy for students representing the University at various events.

ASUNM has been pursuing a revision on the Absence Policy and has kept in contact with the Athletic Council through their SAAC representatives. Students are
asking for fair and equal treatment, not special treatment, when they have to miss a class because of a university related activity.

7. The Academic Integrity Subcommittee continued to monitor team grade point averages and reported a 3.06 cumulative GPA for the fall semester. By the end of this reporting period, all teams will have an academic progression rates (APR) above 925, the standard set by the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

The Council continued its recognition of the athletic team with the most improved team grade point average over the past year. The 2010-11 recipient was Men’s Tennis with an increase from 3.07 to 3.27. Over 225 student athletes were recognized at the Academic Awards Dinner for GPAs over 3.25. Four graduating senior athletes had 4.0 GPAs or better.

8. Although all of the exit interviews have not been analyzed it is notable that the students in the focus groups reported NO issues with sexism or racism.

Report from Gender, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee
Stephen Bishop, chair: the Gender, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee worked on five main projects this academic year:

f) Reporting on last year’s Gender, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee student-athlete survey to the Athletic Council as a whole. This report included both the statistical data as well as the committee’s opinions on what issues were most important to the student-athletes, what some of the weaknesses of the survey were, and how the survey could be improved.

g) Discussing issues of concern to tackle this academic year. The decision was, after consulting graduation rate and GPA data on UNM student-athletes, to investigate why African-American student-athletes at UNM perform significantly lower in these areas than all other UNM student-athletes.

h) Forming a joint subcommittee with the Athletic Department (represented by Henry Villegas) in order to better investigate this discrepancy. This joint subcommittee ended up involving people from across the UNM community, including African-American Student Services, Africana Studies, and individuals with specific knowledge and expertise in the area. The committee looked at and discussed data from both UNM and other comparable universities (mostly Mountain West schools) and decided as a first step to ask the African-American student-athlete themselves what their perceptions of their academic experiences at UNM were.

i) Creating a survey for African-American student-athletes in order to begin to understand their perceptions of their academic experiences at UNM.

j) Reworking and redistributing the general student-athlete survey from the previous year in order to gain a second year of data.

Recommendations for next year’s goals
1. It is recommended that the Academic Integrity Subcommittee continue to monitor the APR especially the 6 teams in which the single year change was in a negative direction.
2. Create a survey for African-American student-athletes in order to begin to understand their perceptions of their academic experiences at UNM.
Appendix A

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