

MEMORANDUM

October 31, 1968

TO: Steering Committee
FROM: J. E. Davis, for the Senate Athletic Committee

JED

The major activities of the Athletics Committee for the 1967-68 academic year have included:

1. Selection of a new head basketball coach. Upon the resignation of Mr. Robinson, the committee interviewed a number of candidates, and recommended to the Chancellor the appointment of Mr. Eugene Boldon, who has accepted the position and is now on campus. We feel that Mr. Boldon is exceptionally well qualified, and that his appointment has greatly strengthened the athletic staff.
2. Certification of Eligibility. For athletic eligibility, the committee requires a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 and an average of 2.0 the preceeding semester. This is substantially more demanding than the NCAA requirement (a sliding scale from 1.6 in the freshman year to 2.0 in the senior year). The committee occasionally approves petitions of exception in marginal cases where there are extenuating circumstances, but in no case have we approached the NCAA minimum standards. First-semester freshmen are granted conditional eligibility, subject to evaluation of their mid-semester grades.
3. Recreational and Intramural Sports. The committee and the athletic staff are committed to the importance of recreational and intramural sports as well as intercollegiate sports. Accordingly, the facilities are shared even during prime varsity team practice periods. For instance, the usual distribution of basketball floor space is 2/3 intramural and recreational, and 1/3 varsity on weekday afternoons.
4. Athletic recruiting. This has been perhaps the knottiest problem the committee has considered, and there has been no formal policy adopted as such. We do have what we consider to be a satisfactory understanding with the athletic staff and the Admissions Office, however.

The committee strongly disapproves of "big-time recruiting" of athletes, yet recognizes that the legitimate professional activities of the athletic staff often take them into the high schools as guest speakers, officials, or clinic instructors, or simply to attend a game. Thus the athletic staff members have excellent opportunities to meet high school student-athletes, many of whom are interested in Oakland University. The names of any interested students (regardless of their athletic prowess or lack of it) are referred to the admissions office. The committee, the athletic staff, and the admissions office agree that the first formal written contact with the prospective student must come from the admissions office. Thereafter, if the student seeks further information about the athletic program, a member of the staff may write to him. The essential feature of this policy is that the initiative must come from the student rather than the coach. The role of the Oakland staff member is thus "Public Relations" rather than "Bird-dogging," as Mr. Lepley puts it. The committee is confident that all members of our present staff support this policy, and we see no need for a more formal and restrictive policy at this time.

JED/smm

cc: All faculty and administrative personnel