

News

Equity

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rather than adding another female sport. "To add another team would require cutting every other team's budget in order to obtain funding, thereby reducing every team's ability to compete at a Division I level."

"We are committed to achieving (equity) within our current athletics budget," Reed said, insisting that the athletics budget will not have to be increased in order to be more equitable. "It is also important to realize that these reports are tools for reference. They are not decisions in and of themselves."

Concurrently with the OCR investigation, UNCA is undergoing a certification process with the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA). As part of the process, UNCA assembled a faculty-staff committee that assessed four separate areas including equity, fiscal integrity, academic integrity, and governance and rules compliance.

The subcommittee that dealt with gender equity issues within the athletics department also cited major problems that coincided with many of the comments in the Daniel report, including variances among the scholar-

ships given to male and female athletes, differences in the per diem and travel rates between male and female teams, and differences in the salaries of male and female coaches and their support services.

"I don't see it as necessarily negative that we have these two processes going on at the same time," Reed said. "Both efforts are the same in terms of gender equity. I don't see one hindering the other."

In the NCAA certification report, the equity subcommittee recommended the creation of a new position to advise the university on achieving and maintaining equity in athletics programs. The equity advisor will be independent of the athletics department and will report directly to the administration.

The position is likely to be created this fall, after the NCAA certification process is completed in November.

In an open meeting of the NCAA faculty-staff committee held last week, Dr. Keith Krumpe, chair of the equity subcommittee, pointed out that other universities are dealing with similar issues.

"UNCA is not unique," said Krumpe. "Most universities are struggling with these issues."

Krumpe said equity problems are often misunderstood because of the complexity of the Title IX statutes and the various court decisions that arose out of cases involving other

universities. Krumpe emphasized that disparities at UNCA were "not done maliciously or malevolently."

Student Government Association (SGA) president Sergio Mariaca was impressed with the work of the NCAA committee.

"I think they are taking a realistic approach that will make athletics a more efficient and better department," Mariaca said.

Tom Hunnicutt, director of athletics, also emphasized that his department was working to achieve equity. Another change that has already occurred is the separation of the athletics and recreation programs and budgets.

This division makes it easier to assess the actual costs of running athletics programs at UNCA.

Reed added that she felt UNCA was within "striking distance" of meeting the requirements of Title IX laws. UNCA's task is simplified by the fact that there is not a large football or hockey program to balance out, and that the expectations of alumni did not create extraordinary pressures on the athletics program, she said.

Reed said that she could not safely predict the outcome of next week's OCR investigation.

"I have confidence that we have done a good job in assessing the situation," Reed said. "We have committed ourselves to making UNCA a place where gender equity is real."

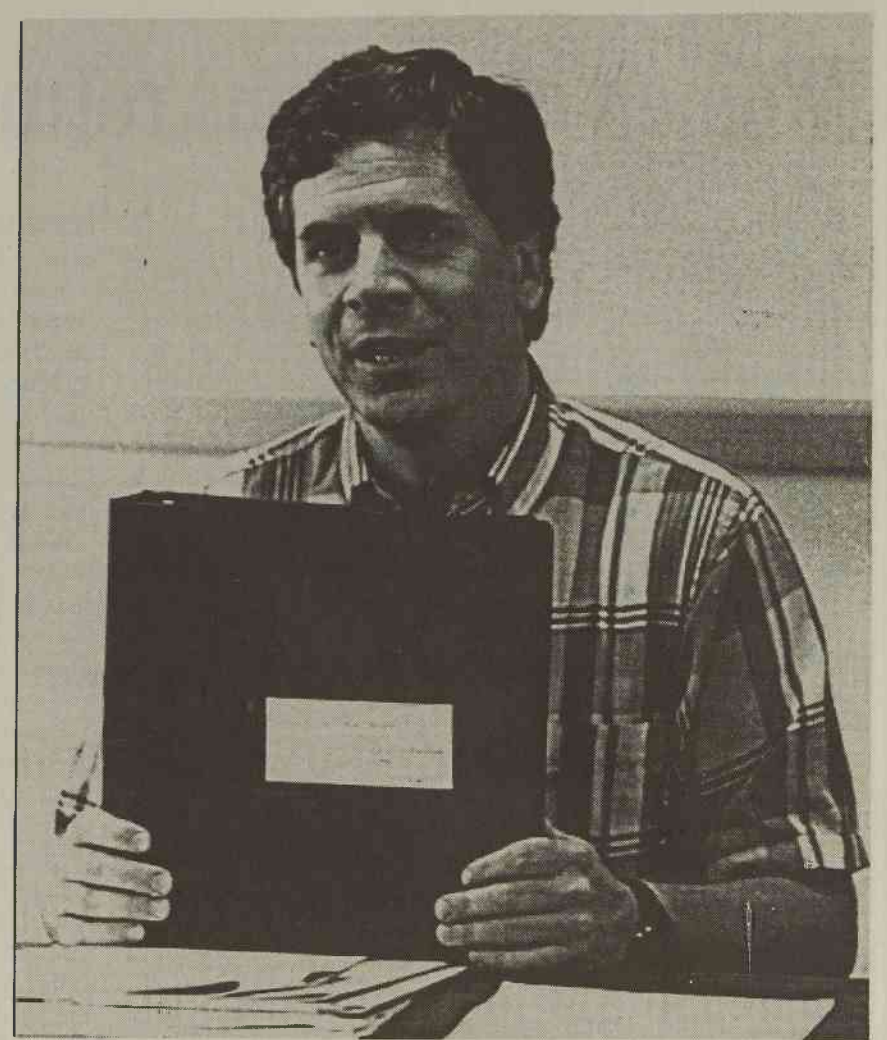


Photo by Del Delorm

Steven Patch, associate professor of mathematics, presides over the open meeting of the NCAA certification.

The chancellor's open hours are from 3-4 p.m. on the following dates: September 18, October 3, 16, and 30, November 6, 20, and 25. The office is in Phillips Hall, Room 255.

New rules proposed for student athletes

(CPS)-A special NCAA committee proposed July 19 that student athletes be allowed to hold off-season jobs and that those with professional potential be allowed to borrow against their future earnings.

The NCAA's Special Committee on Agents and Amateurism proposed the changes after studying "unscrupulous agents and their effects on students and the NCAA," said William E. Kirwan, chair of the committee and president of the University of Maryland at College Park.

One of the more startling pro-

posals would allow student athletes likely to be high-pick draft choices to borrow against their future salaries as professional athletes.

The athletes would have "access to money beyond what they have at the moment," Kirwan said, mentioning figures in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range. "We're not looking at something that would replace the first year of contract with a professional team."

Another proposal would allow Division I student athletes to hold off-season jobs to pay for school-related expenses not

covered by their scholarships. Under current rules, those athletes may work only during summer and holiday breaks.

Also, student athletes would have more flexibility when it comes to participating in radio, television or film projects.

Kirwan said the committee also proposed that the NCAA and its member institutions invest more effort into educating student athletes on the "economics of sports [and] the complicated process of the transition from intercollegiate athletics to professional athletes."

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