Date: Mon 25 Sep 16:40:43 EDT 2006
From: "Charles Wellford, Chair, Athletic Council" <UMMailer@megamail.umd.edu> Add To Address Book | This is Spam
Subject: Monitoring the Academic Progress of Student Athletes
To: "UM Faculty";

Our campus is committed to the notion that every student athlete is first and foremost a student. While the vast majority of our approximately 650 student athletes are successful as students (e.g., last year 254 of them were on the Atlantic Coast Conference Honor Roll; 393 of them achieved a 3.0 or higher semester GPA; the average student-athlete cumulative GPA is over 2.8; and the 2006 student-athlete graduation rate will be 76% as compared to 77% for the campus), there are others who need to utilize various academic support services to be successful as a student while they represent us in intercollegiate athletics. In addition, the National Collegiate Athletic Association requires that all member institutions monitor the academic performance of their student athletes. As a prerequisite to their participation in intercollegiate athletics each year, all student athletes sign a waiver allowing release of their academic information to appropriate units in the Athletic Department.

On our campus, the Academic Support and Career Development Unit (ASCDU), is charged with monitoring the academic progress of student athletes. A committee chaired by Dean James Harris, as well as the Academic Committee of the Athletic Council, oversees this unit which is part of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.

The information used by ASCDU to develop academic support services for student athletes includes the progress reports they ask each of us to complete, the mid-semester grades we submit, and the insights only faculty can provide to ASCDU staff on the problems students are experiencing in our courses. This information can include attendance, completion of assignments, and interim grades. If you are asked to provide information for a student athlete in your course, please remember that the student has authorized ASCDU to receive the information. The information will only be used to develop academic support services that can assist those students in their academic pursuits.

I request that, when you are asked by ASCDU staff to provide semester progress reports or your assessment of what a student athlete must do to improve their performance in your class, you make every effort to do so. Obviously, it is your decision as to whether or not you respond to this request. My purpose in writing to you is to explain why such requests are made, to assure you that you can provide the information, and also to assure you that any information you provide will only be used to develop academic support services for student athletes.

Thank you for considering this information and for your support of the academic success of our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me (x54701).

Sincerely,

Charles F. Wellford