

ATHLETIC SCHEDULING CONFLICTS:

Council of Deans Minutes of the Meeting of February 16, 2000

Registrar Ann Trost presented the data regarding scheduling conflicts for athletes. The attached appendixes chronicle the conflicts by class instruction method and by team. The Tuesday/Thursday extended periods are more likely to cause conflicts.

During the discussion, the Council noted that the situation has some gravity and merits a solution. The following issues were discussed:

- a. Currently, students allowed priority registration include off-campus students, those returning from a leave of absence, and special needs students enrolled in the Bridges program. Approximately 125-150 students avail of this privilege.
- b. Allowing priority registration to athletes even when restricted by sport in season and by class (that is, freshman athletes receive priority among other freshman) will have an impact on other students. Athletes with priority registration are likely to use that privilege to take favorite instructors and to avoid unpopular class times much like other students.
- c. Students involved in fine arts and union board are going to find this privilege unfair. The tight scheduling of athletic facilities does hamper the flexibility of athletes in a special way. And students participating in fine arts activities can get academic credit for those activities unlike athletes. Nevertheless, the other students may well find this an unpopular move.
- d. The Council discussed the best ways to diffuse unfavorable reaction from non-athlete students. Assistant Provost Bonnie Hunter advocated student involvement in the decision-making processes and argued that it would be best to take this matter to the Educational Policy Committee. Other members felt that the issues involved are too finely nuanced to allow for good judgement on the part of students.
- e. Are there any other means besides priority registration to achieve the same results? The possibility of artificially lower class limits was suggested. This would necessitate the creating of wait lists, and athletes on the wait list would be given priority. However, athletes may not always wait list for these courses, and, desiring certainty, may choose courses that conflict with practice.
- f. It will be impossible to avoid all conflicts for athletes. In view of the issues discussed, the Council resolved the following:

Priority registration will be provided for freshman and sophomore athletes, within their own class standing, and only for the season in sport. Dr. William Steinbrecher will determine which sports get priority during each semester. Also, the number of athletes given priority in any single class or section may be limited in proportion to the seats and the general demand for that class.

In order to diffuse student criticism, Provost Roy Austensen will announce these provisions at EPC as a pilot program undertaken to address some serious problems for athletes. The program will be evaluated after one year and student response and involvement sought in the evaluation.