

To: University Athletics Board  
From: Bob Jacobsen, Faculty Athletic Representative  
Subject: FAR Report for October 2013 Meeting  
Date: October 29, 2013

Since the last meeting, we have requested 5 medical waivers from the PAC-12. This is somewhat below the historical rate. Note that there have been two Pac-12 meetings during this time. All of the cases are well documented and are the kinds of things that normally arise. All have been granted

The new NCAA system for reporting secondary (routine) violations has not yet settled down, but there are no indications that the rate of secondary violations has changed.

The softball team was invited to take part in the national championships at the end of Spring 2013. The trip for this started part-way through finals week, which required exam accommodations to be made during the last few weeks of the semester. This happens to several teams every year, and in general it is possible to make suitable arrangements using various techniques. Three softball student-athletes were unable to arrange accommodations with the instructor of a single course. The instructor set changing conditions, was generally unresponsive, and finally announced that "she had never made changes for professional athletes and wasn't going to start now". The students travelled with their team and missed the final. Two of the students set the course to P/NP and accepted NP grades. The third was unable to set the course to P/NP and received an F. She pursued a grade grievance via the Committee on Courses of Instruction's process for adjudicating improper grading procedures. The department Chair found that the grade should be changed.

A female student-athlete requested to transfer to another Pac-12 school during the summer. In her sport, the NCAA and Pac-12 rules normally require that a student transferring within the conference wait a year before competition, wait a year before receiving an athletic scholarship, and lose one year of eligibility. There is a process for waivers and appeals. The student invoked that process. Two faculty hearing panels heard the case, and recommended that the year delay for aid and the loss of a year of eligibility be waived, but the year wait for competition be retained. The Pac-12 accepted that recommendation.

The initial eligibility of student-athletes is determined by the NCAA. This cycle, they have made six decisions that we disagree with. Although the reasons vary, they generally involve complicated student records where the NCAA has decided not to consider certain courses in the student record, resulting in the transcript being considered deficient due to the missing courses. The Berkeley admission process is based on determining whether the student is likely to succeed here, and may find a student admissible even if one or more courses are later deemed missing by the

NCAA. There is an appeal process. Typically, we file one or two of these per year, so this year is a significant increase. The compliance staff puts a large amount of skill & effort into these. This year, they succeeded in all but one of the cases. This is an impressive record. They should be applauded.

One football student-athlete was dismissed from the team for cause and one retired from competition during the semester. Both remain on financial aid, with all student services still available to them. Intercollegiate Athletics is developing an exit procedure for cases like this to ensure that the students know that the full range of support will continue to be available.