

# Utah State University

## Athletic Council Report

For Period of  
January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005

Submitted to the  
Utah State University  
Faculty Senate

By USU Athletic Council

Kenneth L. White (Chair, 2005-2006), Faculty Athletics Representative

### **Executive Summary**

The Athletic Council advises the President with respect to the athletics program. The duties of the council are to: (a) help maintain an athletic program compatible with the best academic interests of the university; (b) assure compliance with the rules of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), and the university athletic code; (c) review and recommend to the President and the Board of Trustees all intercollegiate athletic budgets; and (d) recommend policies and procedures for all aspects of the intercollegiate programs. Major issues of importance to Athletics at Utah State University during 2005 were: beginning athletic competition in the Western Athletic Conference (WAC), the 2005 Men's Cross Country team earned Utah State University's first WAC championship, and Romney Stadium renovations. The latest (2005) Utah State University student athlete federal graduation rate is 64% (98-99 cohort rate), with a four year average of 62%. A total of 83 student athletes received All – Academic conference (Big West, WAC and Western Gymnastics). There were 147 recipients of the Joe E. Whitesides Scholar-Athlete awards with the highest GPA awards (tie) to both Carolyn Stephens (Tennis) and Crystal Thisselle (Track & Field). Big West Scholar-Athlete of the years awards went to Melissa Baggaley (Soccer) and Spencer Nelsen (Basketball). The Athletics department continued to appropriately manage their fiscal responsibilities by reporting a balanced budget in 2004 and continues their efforts at enhancing funding through increased ticket sales, Big Blue contributions, sponsorship opportunities, media contracts and outside donations. Improvements to Romney Stadium continued in the spring-summer of 2005 with the renovations to the south end entrance to the stadium. This included enhanced access to the stadium and construction of an expanded ticket office and new concessions facility. Overall, the Athletics programs at Utah State University are healthy and looking toward the growth that is necessary to keep the program competitive as we now compete in the WAC in all sports.

### **Faculty Senate Report Athletics Council**

#### *Introduction:*

*Committee Members:* Kenneth White, Chair; Julie Foust, Vice-Chair, Stan Albrecht, Noelle Cockett, Juan Franco, Glenn Ford, Randy Spetman, Mary Ellen Cloninger, Craig Kelsey, Paul Parkinson, Quinn Millet, Rosie Strong, Ryan

Taylor, Erin Manning, Betty Dance, Kathy Piercy, Lynn Dudley, Mike Freeman, Bob Mills. Ex Officio Members: Brian Evans, Ken Peterson.

*Mission:* The Athletic Council advises the President with respect to the athletics program. The duties of the council are to: (a) help maintain an athletic program compatible with the best academic interests of the university; (b) assure compliance with the rules of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), and the university athletic code; (c) review and recommend to the President and the Board of Trustees all intercollegiate athletic budgets; and (d) recommend policies and procedures for all aspects of the intercollegiate programs.

The annual report from the Athletics Council to Faculty Senate includes both future and current issues facing the Athletics Department. Each issue is reviewed by the athletics council to insure the Department of Athletics is operating within the guidelines of the NCAA and Utah State University. Monitoring the annual budget, identifying potential new revenue sources and efficiently managing expenses are always a priority. A long-term goal of the Athletics Department is to become increasingly self-funded. Key facts and discussion items for the current year include: USU's initiation of competition in the new Western Athletic Conference, academic accomplishments of student-athletes, and highlight some of our student-athlete athletic accomplishments.

1. Conference Affiliation:

- On July 1, 2005 Utah State University became a full member of the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) in all sports.
- Membership in the WAC will facilitate the athletic programs at USU in several ways. This conference is composed of institutions primarily located in the western region, and as such, provides the opportunity for more regional competition and reduces travel expenses.
- Former rivalries with institutions such as University of Nevada – Reno, New Mexico State University, Boise State University have been re-established.
- The new WAC consists of USU, University of Nevada – Reno, New Mexico State University, Boise State University, Fresno State University, San Jose State University, University of Hawaii, University of Idaho, and Louisiana Tech University.
- The new WAC is more regionally located so the travel costs for the Utah State University program should decrease.
- In the WAC, the football program will have more opportunities for bowl games which will also positively impact recruiting. The most recent football season resulted in three WAC teams participating in bowl games.
- With membership in the WAC, all 16 of Utah State University teams are in one conference.

2. The NCAA strengthened academic standards for student-athletes. The following is a highlight of current NCAA academic standards:

***Initial Eligibility***

Student-athletes entering a certifying institution as freshmen in the fall of 2005 must meet the standard of:

- 14 Core Courses and meet an appropriate academic index baseline (e.g. SAT of 780 with a Core GPA of 2.60)
- Effective fall of 2008 all freshman student-athletes are required to 16 core courses.

### ***Continuing Eligibility (Current standards)***

#### *Freshman Student-Athletes*

- A maximum of 6 semester hours of remedial credit may be used in the first year for purposes of meeting the progress-toward-degree requirements.
- 24 semester hours of academic credit must be completed before entering the second year of collegiate enrollment.
- A minimum of 18 hours of academic credit must be earned during the fall and spring of the first academic year (with an additional 6 credits earned during the summer session).
- Student-athletes' grade-point averages must be at least 90% of the grade-point average required for graduation before entering their second academic year.
- Pass 6 degree applicable credits per semester every regular academic semester in order to remain eligible for competition the subsequent semester (Certified by the USU Faculty Athletic Representative each semester).
- By start of year two – 24 semester hours with minimum 1.800 [NA] grade-point average.
- By start of year three – 40% [25%] of credits towards degree earned with a minimum 1.900 [1.80] grade-point average.
- By start of year four – 60% [50%] of credits towards degree earned with a minimum 2.000 [1.90] grade-point average.
- By start of year five – 80% [75%] of credits towards degree earned with a minimum 2.000 [1.90] grade-point average.

### ***Transfer Eligibility***

- 2-Year College Transfer must meet 40% [previously 35%] Percent of Degree Requirement (PDR) upon transfer.
- Mid-Year (Spring semester) college transfers must meet 6 credit-hour requirement (must have passed 6 credits from transfer institution in the semester prior to transfer) to remain eligible the subsequent semester.

#### Other

- Banking hours to average is obsolete (e.g. under the old standards a student-athlete passes 28 credits one year and 20 the next, they have a 24 credit average over 2 years).
- The 24 credits per-year requirement, after the first year, is obsolete. New PDR (40/60/80) assures student-athletes meet 24 per year or ineligible.
- Maximum 6 credits per semester of remedial/prerequisite in the student-athletes first academic year [previously 12 credits per semester].

### **Current Student-Athletes**

- All currently enrolled student-athletes as well as 2- and 4-year transfers (enrolled full-time prior to August 1, 2003 excluding summer) will be tracked under “old” Academic Standards.
- Current student-athletes must pass 6 semester hour requirement to remain eligible the subsequent semester.
- Student-Athletes must meet standards for satisfactory progress and good academic standing to practice and compete in intercollegiate athletics at Utah State University.

### 3. Graduation rates

- The 98-99 cohort rate (most recent) is 64%, with a 4-year average of 62%;
- The '97-'98 cohort rate was 53%, with a 4-year average of 62%;
- The '96-'97 cohort rate was 81%, with a 4-year average of 60%;
- The '95-'96 cohort rate was 45%, with a 4-year average of 53%;
- The '94-'95 cohort rate was 64% with a 4-year average of 53%
- In all years and categories except '95-96 cohort, the graduation rate was higher than the general student body.

The NCAA released the first Graduation Success Rate (GSR) for all teams of all NCAA Division I Member Institutions in December, 2005. This rate, a 4-year Average that can be directly compared to the Federal Rates' 4-year average mentioned above, is a more accurate snapshot of how scholarship student-athletes graduate. Students who transfer to USU that fall into one of the cohorts are counted in this rate (they are *not* counted in the federal rate) when they graduate; students who transfer from USU and are academically eligible at the time of transfer do *not* count against USU graduation rates (as they do with the federal rate). The overall USU GSR for the 4-year cohorts encompassing 1995-1999 is **74%**.

### 4. Academics/Awards

- The **cumulative combined student-athlete** grade point average after the Spring 2005 semester was a 3.046.
- The **Top female cumulative team** (Cross Country) grade point average after the Spring 2005 semester was a 3.634.
- The **Top male cumulative team** (Tennis) grade point average after the Spring 2005 semester was a 3.34.
- The **Spring 2005 Academic All-Conference** (Big West; 15 graded credit hours with  $\geq 3.5$  GPA) selections, 39.
- At the completion of the Spring 2005 semester, **fifty-two percent** of student-athletes had a cumulative GPA of **3.0 or greater**; **ninety-three percent** had a cumulative GPA of **2.0 or greater**.
- The **soccer team** was awarded the **National Soccer Coaches Association of America Team Academic Award** for the third straight season (teams that have a GPA  $> 3.0$ ); Fall 2005.

- A total of **44** Utah State University student athletes received **All – Academic WAC** honors in Fall 2005.
- A total of **147** Utah State University student athletes received the **Joe E. Whitesides Scholar Athlete** award in 2005.

#### 5. Athletic Accomplishments

- Men's Basketball were 2005 Big West Tournament Champions and received a first round bid to the NCAA Basketball Tournament.
- Women's Soccer placed second in the WAC.
- Men's Cross Country was the first USU team to win a WAC Championship.
- Women's Cross Country placed second in the WAC.
- Women's Volleyball place second in the WAC and received a first round bid to the NCAA Tournament.
- Trevor Ball and Tiffany Strickland were invited to the NCAA Regional competition in Cross Country.
- Trevor Ball, received All-American honors in Men's Cross Country.
- Zuzana Cernianska, received Honorable Mention All-American honors from the American Volleyball Coaches Association.
- Brian Soi and Jake Hutton, Football, received Freshman All-American honors from the Sporting News – Hutton was named a Third-Team selection, and Soi was Honorable Mention.

## 6. Budget

**UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Athletics Department Budget Report**  
**Fiscal Years 2004-05 and 2005-06**

<b>Funds Available</b>	<b>FY 2004-05 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2005-06 Budget</b>
E & G funds	1,120,749	1,630,275
Staff Benefits on E & G	568,915	725,472
Institutional Support	759,552	759,000
Student Fees	1,602,768	1,625,000
Football	1,801,774	1,370,000
Basketball	636,512	725,000
Big Blue Club	832,454	887,848
Athletic Fund	1,021,754	1,058,046
NCAA/Big West/Sunbelt	436,950	870,000
Division one compliance	551,821	0
Other Income	88,693	100,000
<b>Total fund available</b>	9,421,942	9,750,641
<b>Expenses</b>		
Total Salaries and Benefits	4,159,450	4,154,947
Academic Support	29,558	46,763
Administration	469,874	695,220
Weight Room	21,547	49,000
Media Relations	109,874	138,500
Advertising and Promotion	265,117	245,500
Video Room	24,563	25,000
Medical	301,547	303,000
Training Room	44,233	43,000
Ticket Office	159,852	120,500
Football	1,685,214	1,540,765
Men's Basketball	429,521	468,633
Men's Golf	39,855	37,000
Men's Tennis	41,002	33,664
Men's Track	108,963	141,112
Women's Track	187,412	241,412
Women's Volleyball	171,653	247,328
Women's Gymnastics	136,987	229,599
Softball	152,325	193,523
Women's Tennis	72,632	74,492
Women's Soccer	144,523	129,228
Women's Basketball	252,225	330,455
Capital Improvements	413,369	262,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	9,421,296	9,750,641
<b>Balance</b>	646	0

**UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Athletics Department**  
**Funds Available by Source**

Sources of Funds	Actual Income FY 2004-05	Change	Projected Income FY 2005-06
<b>E. &amp; G. funds</b>	1,120,749	509,526	1,630,275 a
<b>Institutional support</b>	759,552	(552)	759,000
<b>Staff benefits E. &amp; G. funds</b>	568,915	156,557	725,472 b
<b>Student fees</b>	1,602,768	22,232	1,625,000
<b>Football</b>			
<b>Football - home</b>	376,774	268,226	645,000 c
<b>Football - guarantees</b>	1,425,000	(700,000)	725,000 d
<b>Total Football</b>	<b>1,801,774</b>	<b>(431,774)</b>	<b>1,370,000</b>
<b>Basketball - home</b>	<b>636,512</b>	88,488	<b>725,000e</b>
<b>Big Blue Club</b>			
Big Blue Club - donations	427,410	210,438	637,848
Golf Tourn./Other Activities	39,454	(24,454)	15,000
Aggie auction	89,670	(4,670)	85,000
Touchdown Club	104,420	\$45,580	150,000
Sport specific donations	171,500		
<b>Total Big Blue Club</b>	<b>832,454</b>	55,394	<b>887,848 f</b>
<b>Athletic fund</b>			
Concessions	39,644	10,356	50,000
T.V. Rights	60,000	(10,000)	50,000
Women's programs	19,014	986	20,000
Sponsorships	558,719	41,281	600,000 g
Radio network	14,000	1,000	15,000
Misc. income/Trade outs	265,117	(25,117)	240,000
Sales Tax/Equity	65,260	17,786	83,046
<b>Total Athletic fund</b>	<b>1,021,754</b>	36,292	<b>1,058,046</b>
<b>NCAA / WAC</b>			
NCAA basketball tournament	28,000	322,000	350,000 h
BCS Bowl game	0	0	105,000
WAC basketball	0	0	25,000
NCAA/programs	290,116	(15,116)	275,000 i
NCAA/sports	62,880	(2,880)	60,000 i
NCAA/academic	55,954	(954)	55,000 i
<b>Total NCAA / WAC</b>	<b>436,950</b>	433,050	<b>870,000</b>
<b>Other income - endow. interest</b>	<b>640,514</b>	(540,514)	<b>100,000 j</b>
<b>Total funds available</b>	<b>9,421,942</b>	328,699	<b>9,750,641</b>
<b>Projected Expenses</b>	<b>9,421,296</b>	329,345	<b>9,750,641</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>646</b>		<b>0</b>

**UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY  
Athletics Department  
Expenditure Summary Report**

Accounts	FY 2004-05 Actual	Change	FY 2005-06 Proposed
Total Salaries and Benefits	4,159,450	(4,503)	4,154,947 k
Administration	469,874	225,346	695,220 l
Academic Support	29,558	17,205	46,763
Weight Room	21,547	27,453	49,000
Media Relations	109,874	28,626	138,500
Advertising and Promotions	265,117	(19,617)	245,500
Video Room	24,563	437	25,000
Medical	301,547	1,453	303,000
Training Room	44,233	(1,233)	43,000
Ticket Office	159,852	(39,352)	120,500 m
Football	1,685,214	(144,449)	1,540,765 n
Men's Basketball	429,521	39,112	468,633 o
Men's Golf	39,855	(2,855)	37,000 o
Men's Tennis	41,002	(7,338)	33,664 o
Men's Track	108,963	32,149	141,112 o
Women's Track	187,412	54,000	241,412 o
Women's Volleyball	171,653	75,675	247,328 o
Women's Gymnastics	136,987	92,612	229,599 o
Softball	152,325	41,198	193,523 o
Women's Tennis	72,632	1,860	74,492 o
Women's Soccer	144,523	(15,295)	129,228 o
Women's Basketball	252,225	78,230	330,455 o
Capital Improvements	413,369	(151,369)	262,000 p
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$9,421,296</b>	<b>\$329,345</b>	<b>\$9,750,641</b>

## EXPLANATION OF CHANGES BETWEEN FY 2004-05 AND FY 2005-06 BUDGETS

- a. Increase includes 2.5% salary increase, 1.5% merit adjustment and transfer of ticket office salary budget to the Athletic department budget. The increase also includes the additional funds for the new football staff.
- b. Increase in the cost of staff benefits.
- c. Increase reflects 2 additional home games and implementation of the new premium seating program.
- d. Decrease is the result of paying for a home game and not playing an away game with a large guarantee.
- e. Increase is the result of our prior year ticket sales.
- f. Increase in fund raising activities and new membership criteria.
- g. Increase from new sponsorships on the football and basketball scoreboards.
- h. WAC revenue distribution.
- i. NCAA revenue distribution based on national Television contract.
- j. Increase from University administration for new football staff.
- k. Salaries and benefits increased as follows: 129,710 for new football staff, 69,301 for department salary increases, 20,931 for merit adjustments, 115,324 from ticket office transfer and 237,616 total increase for department staff benefits. Also included in the FY 2004-05 expenses is the payout for the prior football staff of 258,554.
- l. Membership dues increased from 75,000 to 400,000 for membership in the WAC. We also will be paying a 200,000 per year for three year entrance fee.
- m. We are in the process of up grading our ticketing system which will require more funding.
- n. Football decrease is a result of less team travel and not paying home game guarantees.
- o. All sports will require adjustments to their operating budgets for financial aid, game officials, equipment updates, and team travel.
- p. Decrease is the result of paying off the Laub Center loans. The remaining balance is for payment of the scoreboards in the Spectrum and Football stadium.