The AS&E Bylaw Committee on Athletics is responsible for receiving and approving semi-annual reports from the athletics coaches, vetting proposals for new sport programs, and generally discussing and giving guidance on whatever issues may arise about the relationship between the athletic and academic programs at Tufts.

In the fall semester we met twice. First, on Oct. 29, we considered two club sports proposals, one for gymnastics and one for ice hockey. After some further consideration and information-gathering, the committee ruled that neither of these proposals could be approved at this time. In the interests of broadening the committee’s scope somewhat we also had some general discussion of issues raised in the media recently by William G. Bowen on Sport at elite colleges like Tufts. Our second meeting on Dec. 9 was the customary once-a-semester session to hear and approve the reports from the various coaches in charge of Tufts Athletic teams, with their recommendations for special awards.

This spring we met but once, on April 21, to hear and approve the coaches reports and also to discuss briefly recurring, long-term issues involving the inadequacy of athletics facilities. Especially compared with other elite schools in the Northeast, Tufts has a somewhat neglected and substandard physical space for its major programs. Our six-lane, 25 meter pool is hardly adequate for recreational use, much less teams that can expect to train and compete in Olympic-standard facilities. Tufts needs a new pool. Secondly, the old squash courts are non-regulation in size and inconvenient in location vis a vis changing rooms, etc. Thirdly, the basketball court is non-regulation in size. There are long-standing plans to raise the floor, creating usable space beneath while providing a regulation size replacement court. Fourthly, Tufts Crew needs better facilities, and finally, the Tufts varsity ice hockey team needs a rink of its own. While acknowledging that the larger needs of the university has reasonably enough relegated these problems to a lesser priority for several decades, these are real and pressing issues. The disparity with our competitors is visibly increasing, and if we are to have an athletics program that does not fall further and further behind our public relations rhetoric of excellence, resources will have to be found and committed. *The committee urge the administration to make a serious and timely effort to find a way of funding an adequate physical space—not for an expansion of our programs but to ensure that as a minimum there are facilities that do not embarrass the university.*

For the Committee,

H. L. Malchow