Annual Report on the Athletic Committee (April 3, 2013)

The Athletic Committee met three times this academic year; once in the fall semester and twice this spring. At the fall meeting we talked about setting up a “dashboard,” a set of metrics pertaining to the intersection of Athletics and Academics that the Committee could look at annually and spot trends.

At the first spring meeting, the committee received the report by Tami Anton of TDA Consulting entitled, “Tufts University Athletics, Fitness and Wellness Study. Findings and Recommendations ”. This report reviewed all aspects of athletics at Tufts including team sports, club sports, intramural sports and the infrastructure at Tufts for athletics as well as the needs of the Athletic Department. There were two types of recommendations, “Strategic” and “Organizational” that were presented to the committee. Among the ‘Strategic’ recommendations were increasing the assistant coach stipends and the recruitment budgets, creating a campus-wide wellness program and pursuing funding for Phase III of new athletic facilities. Among the ‘Organizational’ recommendations were: addressing the needs of club sports, enhancing the athletic marketing efforts, integrating sports medicine with Health Services, and formalizing the roles and responsibilities of the Athletic Department management team in order to execute the priorities and revised employment processes.

At the final spring semester meeting of the Athletic Committee, a new NCAA representative for Tufts was chosen, Professor Steven Hirsch, (President Monaco has delegated his power to name the NCAA rep to the Athletic Committee); we briefly discussed the implications of the Strategic Plan Prelude for Athletics, as well as the ways in which the Athletic Department communicates to coaches and athletes the relationship of Academics and Athletics and mechanisms for allowing student-athletes to compete when there is a conflict between an exam and a match/tournament; and Tufts senior, Andrew Lutz, was recommended for an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship. A letter of recommendation for Andrew was submitted to the NCAA. The current chair was re-elected for the 2013-2014 academic year.

For the Committee,

David E. Cochrane, Chair