



MEMORANDUM

TO: Priority Registration Advisory Committee Members

FROM: Alice Poehls, University Registrar

SUBJECT: Fall 2009 PRAC Appeals Meeting Notes for February 20

DATE: February 20, 2009

The Priority Registration Advisory Committee met on February 13, 2009 to review the submissions requesting priority registration for Fall 2009 early registration. Committee members present for the meeting held in Room 3203 of the Union were David Bevevino, Cynthia Demetriou, Deborah Eaker-Rich, Alice Poehls (Chair) and Dulcie Straughan. Absent from the meeting were Steve May, Reva Grace Phillips, and Cheryl Thomas.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear appeals from the eight groups denied priority registration at the meeting on February 13, 2009. The Committee was asked to consider a late recommendation from Brown Walters for the Cheer Team.

Representatives of all eight groups were present and provided statements to the PRAC. In each case, the original decision was overturned (see the meeting vote tally).

Brown Walters presented the recommendation for the Cheer Team. The PRAC voted first to accept the late request, then heard the rationale, and then voted approval (see the meeting vote tally).

The following notes regarding discussion points were recorded by the Chair to assist the Committee in the future with evaluating the form and the process:

- Presenters provided information about courses required of various majors in their groups. They demonstrated the percentage of the offered sections of required labs and courses that are offered during class times available to their students. When view in this way, students often have fewer than 50% of the offered sections to select from and from which to create a viable schedule. For instance, many athletes are Communication majors and are required to complete 3 Communication courses above the 400 level. Only 17 are offered in the Fall and only a portion of those during times certain team members are free.
- Individuals who participate in groups such as the ones discussed by PRAC often choose majors based on ability to schedule courses.
- Chemistry has reduced evening labs significantly.
- Several presenters stressed increasing awareness and focus on nutrition, conditioning and sleep in their programs because of the proven positive effects these factors have on academic success as well as participation in activities.
- The NCAA no longer refers to "in and out of season." Rather, because of the extension of activities and training, NCAA athletes participate in traditional and non-traditional seasons.
- Athletic teams not only share facilities but they may share trainers; this adds to scheduling difficulties.
- The Committee would like to see not a schedule for every student, but rather a representative or typical schedule of a real student. Some of the schedules were so broad that they gave an

impression of more flexibility than the students had. Real student schedules are more helpful than lengthy narratives describing schedules.

- Injury is common among athletes and requires therapy and conditioning. Most athletes have required conditioning to reduce the potential for injury.
- Weight room and conditioning activities are usually team activities and do not allow individual scheduling.
- Fencing is an example of a non-scholarship sport with a small budget; because of this travel to competition is on a bus. This exacerbates scheduling difficulties.
- Scholarship cadets in ROTC programs enter a binding contract with the military that includes their program of study. Changes to the program must be re-considered by the military. ROTC cadets receive 4 years of federal scholarship and their subsequent training and military assignment requires completion in 4 years.
- ROTC cadets are precluded from attending most summer sessions because of required military training in the summer months.
- ROTC cadets may have as many as 18 required extra credits added to their academic programs and often only a few of those are potential electives.
- ROTC cadets may not be commissioned without an earned degree.
- Individuals preparing to be teachers must student teach exclusively during their last semester; this is a State requirement.
- Individuals preparing to be teachers have general education requirements, education requirements, and subject matter requirements that make scheduling and staying on track very difficult.
- In addition to student teaching, all individuals preparing to be teachers have placements in the school systems during other semesters (2-4, depending on the area). These are usually full-day activities with travel time.
- The College of Education now provides an education adviser to work with the General College advisers at least one day per week so that students are tracked appropriately.
- Members of the Cheer team have conditioning requirements and injury problems. They have overlapping sports and their participation spans from August to April. During some times, they have as many as three games per week.
- Cheer Travel Teams are assigned weekly and are not predictable in advance because of injuries and illness. This requires all team members to be healthy and conditioned and to have schedules that reduce class absences.