

Brief Report to the Academic Senate, May 30, 2018

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Academic Issues

Grade Point Averages

We monitor student athlete GPA by term. As a group, they have consistently had a higher GPA than the student-body at large. For example, after the Fall 2017 quarter, the mean Cal Poly Pomona GPA calculated across all student-athletes was 3.09. By comparison, this same value when compared across all students at Cal Poly Pomona during the same quarter was 2.94 (IRAR). The table below shows, by team, the mean CPP GPA after each of the last two quarters (F17 GPA and W18 GPA). The same data are shown for all students (F17 GPA-all and W18 GPA-all). Finally, the plus or minus signs indicate that the team's mean GPA falls above or below the all-student GPA.

Team	F17 GPA	F17 GPA -all	+/-	W18 GPA	W18 GPA -all	+/-
Women's Volleyball	3.16	2.94	+	3.24	2.94	+
Women's Basketball	3.10	2.94	+	3.11	2.94	+
Women's Track	3.15	2.94	+	3.11	2.94	+
Women's Cross Country	3.18	2.94	+	3.15	2.94	+
Women's Soccer	3.19	2.94	+	3.15	2.94	+
Men's Soccer	3.00	2.94	+	2.98	2.94	+
Men's Track	2.95	2.94	+	2.84	2.94	-
Men's Cross Country	2.96	2.94	+	2.88	2.94	-
Men's Baseball	3.22	2.94	+	3.19	2.94	+
Men's Basketball	2.76	2.94	-	2.78	2.94	-

Progress Toward Degree

The NCAA requires student-athletes to achieve *both* a yearly average of 12 units per quarter (the 12-unit rule) and a minimum of 8 units each quarter (the 8-unit rule) toward their chosen degree. The vast majority (95%-100%) achieve these benchmarks each term.

NCAA Bylaw Violations

The NCAA divides violations into two major categories. Secondary violations (relatively common) are inadvertent, providing only minimal advantage, with no significant extra benefit to student-athletes. Everything else is considered a major violation (relatively rare).

Year	Major violations	Secondary violations
2017-2018	0	1
2016-2017	0	2
2015-2016	0	1
2014-2015	0	2
2013-2014	0	3
2012-2013	0	3

Miscellaneous Issues

Classroom Absences

Student-athletes are expected to be absent from classes *only* during officially-sanctioned travel days and times that allow them to compete, and are told to talk to their professors ahead of time and make up any missed work. Most faculty are supportive of class absences for travel purposes. However, this support occasionally becomes strained at the point student-athletes need it the most – when they have achieved a winning season in their sport that moves them into championship playoffs. This is particularly problematic because it may be necessary in some cases for student-athletes to miss an extensive number of class sessions.

Student-athletes are not the only students who occasionally miss classes because they represent the university in an official capacity, and it seems to me that it is time to support these students with a class absence policy that makes sense, not just one that requires us to include in each syllabus a class absence policy, which, in my opinion, is not much of a policy at all. I am a strong supporter of academic freedom, but I also believe that we owe it to our students to give them some peace of mind when they are representing Cal Poly Pomona.

Priority Registration

The athletic department continues to appreciate the help of the academic senate in considering the scheduling needs of student-athletes who are attempting to juggle course scheduling with times for practice and competition. Student-athletes are usually in a difficult position with regards to scheduling classes because they have at least two important needs that may conflict with one another: 1) the need to meet for team practices and competitions at specific times on specific days, and 2) the need to complete specific courses for eligibility purposes such that they meet both yearly and term unit requirements (see Academic Issues above).