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Dr. Robert Barchi, President  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Old Queen's, CAC

Dear Bob:

The last quarter of 2012 brought huge changes to the landscape of Rutgers. On the SA academic side, in the classroom, first word indicates that our SAs continue to do well; we can hope that they have maintained and improved their 3.0+/- standing from last year. On the service front, SAs have remained active, participating in toy drives and the annual Big Chill charity run, conceived by Diane Bonanno 10 years ago and sponsored through her offices at Rutgers Recreation. On the fields during the fall, most teams fared well, including WSoc, who got an NCAA bid. FB did fine, certainly, and currently, Wrst, WSwim, and several other teams are in season, including both BB teams, and are doing relatively well.

Reactions to our acceptance into the B1G have been somewhat puzzling. I have done an informal polling of many of the sports coaches, and to a person, they believe that our joining the B1G will prove a great move for all their teams, since the benefits to them are palpable. During the same time, I have asked faculty members if they understand the significance of the CIC (and B1G), but so far most do not grasp the positive benefits. Perhaps some of the blame for that lack of understanding could revolve around our imminent merger with UMDNJ, which has dominated our academic consciousness for the past decade or so. When I visit the NBFC in early February, I will try to explain how the very faculty are one of the main reasons we are members of the B1G and CIC.

Furthermore, in preparation for our nearing move, a committee of the academic support side of athletics, as chaired by Carl Kirschner and on which I serve, has been formed to conduct a basic survey of athletics and team needs. All of these efforts should help smooth our transition and allow all of us to enjoy the academic and athletic big leagues, which have always been part of the University's goals.

SA accolades, awards, etc.

You have by now read about the accolades and successes for the various FB players and of the ones heading to the NFL early: Greene, Harmon, Jamison, Ryan, etc. Various of these SAs have achieved All-American status for academics and/or athletics, about which we should be very happy. Many players on other teams received awards, which have been well chronicled on the Scarletknights.com website.

Scholarships:

The ad-hoc Postgraduate Scholarship committee is presently reviewing the applications of SAs who wish to be nominated for the award. Also, the BE all-academic male and female awards are due this week in Providence. Updates will arrive in the next report.

1A FAR BoD:

I am still serving as the BE rep to the 1A FARs Board of Directors. The BE Associate Commissioner for Compliance informed me I will be replaced when the conference has secured another D1 FAR, but I have the feeling that, since realignment issues have dominated their time, I will continue in the position for a while longer. Right now, I am scheduled to attend the 1A FAR BoD meeting in Indy in late February.

NCAA Surveys:

In October, WLax agreed to participate in an NCAA study on gambling among SAs; this term our MGolf and WGolf teams have been selected for a survey to measure substance use patterns. These surveys are sent to the FAR, who must administer them on site. Rob Monaco, our sports medicine doctor, contacted me recently because he had heard of the survey and preferred that it not conflict with an in-house study being planned in conjunction with the Institute for Alcohol Studies. We agreed that this survey would not conflict, and the golf coaches have agreed to have their SAs participate in the study.

Chi Alpha Sigma, National Student-Athlete Honor Society:

This past fall, we initiated about 30 SAs into the RU NJ Delta chapter of Chi Alpha Sigma at the UConn game at the Syracuse game on 13 October. In your absence, EVPAA and Acting Chancellor Dick Edwards congratulated these excellent SAs, who must be good citizens as deemed by their coaches, have maintained a 3.4+ GPA, have completed at least their junior year, and have received a "letter" in their sport. The others who participated were AD Tim Perneti, VP Barry Qualls, and Kathleen Shank and I as co-advisors.

Next year, we need to plan better so that you can attend and congratulate these students, as the President has always done in the past. The SAs love having their photo taken with you and are disappointed when you cannot attend. We will confirm with Carol Koncsol before next year's initiation to assure that you and Dick are in town.

FARA:

Even though an entire week of classes was cancelled as a result of Sandy, the fall was very busy. During the second week of November, I attended the FARA Annual Forum in Indy. The meeting always entails 2.5 days of workshops, presentations, and the analysis of NCAA rules – both present and proposed. This year's forum was the most productive I have attended because the program actually dealt with timely issues, especially new BoD initiatives from the Rules Working Groups.

After President Emmert's address, I asked if NJ were being singled out as the NCAA banned post-season events in the state because of sports gambling and if it had been Texas or Florida, how the Association would have reacted. He gave the seemingly rehearsed answer that the BoD had reiterated its ban on such events, further noting that, if other states started sports gambling, the NCAA would have to reconsider.

As this session ended, I happened upon Kevin Lennon, the VP for Division 1. He looked at me and asked rhetorically why I did not ask President Emmert what if it were California – the state that hosts the most post-season events? I then asked Kevin why the NCAA sanctioned a bowl game in Las Vegas, which has sports betting, to which he responded by shrugging and wryly smiling.

The other event that caused a great stir among the members was a presentation regarding respect, or lack thereof, and derogatory name calling among SAs. The presentation, which I did not attend in that it was for D3, caused a great commotion and the presenter was reviled by some of his colleagues, even though the program warned participants of the nature of the session. Since the issue was so thought provoking, I have asked the 1A BoD to consider inviting the presenter to our meeting this coming September.

Scheduled activities:

As I mentioned above, I plan to attend the 1A FAR BoD in February, barring a change by the BE. The costs are covered by the NCAA. An update will come in the next report.

I plan to request from the EVPAA's office to attend the following: NCAA Regional Rules Seminar, Denver, May 2013, and B1G FAR activities. Also, I understand that AD Perneti is planning to visit some B1G institutions, in order to gauge what they are doing successfully. He has asked me to participate as we move forward.

Finally, I will be presenting at the NBFC meeting of 1 February. If there is anything you would like me to stress to my colleagues, please let me know.

The FAR in the B1G:

In the past month, I have perused the B1G manual of rules and regulations, and a

couple of issues are quite clear. It is obvious that the BIG has some regulations regarding SA academic standing and eligibility that are stronger than those of the BE. Also, I have realized that the BIG FAR is more utilized in decision-making and compliance than was necessarily the case in the BE. As I delve further into these rules, I will let you know what I have encountered; that said, I will be ready for the tasks at hand.

Next report:

You will receive my next regular report in early April 2013. In the meantime, I will continue my work as normal.

Respectfully submitted,



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Professor, Spanish  
NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative  
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cc:

R. Edwards

M. Hershhorn

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T. Perneti

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D. O'Connor (NBFC chair, 2012-13)

C. Kirschner (chair, AAOC)

M.C. Brennan (Asst. Secty. to the U)