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Edwardsville Bulletin

To the Faculty, Staff and Students of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

March 27, 1984

Vol. 15, No. 3

MEMO TO: The University Community
FROM: Earl Lazerson *E.L.*
SUBJECT: Report of the Task Force on Academics and Athletics

I have received the final report of the Task Force on Academics and Athletics. The Task Force was constituted in May, 1983, and charged with two objectives: 1. To define the concept of the student athlete, and 2. To recommend an appropriate philosophy of athletics for SIUE. In examining the relationship of athletics and academics the following matters have been reviewed: recruitment and retention of athletes; academic progress; scheduling of events; NCAA regulations; financial aid; responsibilities of coaches and students; and monitoring of athletic programs.

The Task Force, chaired by Faculty Senate Past-President Barbara DeLong, was comprised of five other members of the faculty: William Burcky, Edward Harrick, Donal Myer, Martha Welch, Jules Zanger; two students, Katherine Byrne and Leann Cooper; and a member of the professional staff, Patricia North.

The Task Force report is prefaced by the following statement of Principles Governing Intercollegiate Athletics:

The Intercollegiate Athletic program at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville has been developed in the belief that properly administered intercollegiate sports are beneficial activities which contribute to the physical, intellectual, and social experiences of the entire University community. Intercollegiate athletics should complement the instructional research and service programs of the University and therefore, must function within the framework of the University's overall goals.

In harmony with the stated mission of the University, the goals of intercollegiate athletics are to enhance the physical and intellectual abilities of those participating in the program, as well as to provide spectator benefits for the University community and the community at large. The recognition that the goals of the athletic program are subservient

to the goals of the general academic program, should guide the activities of those responsible for the conduct of intercollegiate athletics. Athletic programs must support, not detract from, the University's educational programs.

Intercollegiate athletics is intended to provide students with opportunities to enhance their education, to represent their university, and to participate in athletics with developing skill and understanding. All undergraduate students are encouraged to participate in intercollegiate athletics as determined by their interests and capabilities. Participation in the program, however, is secondary to the academic obligation of students. To this end, it is the responsibility of those administering the program to schedule the length of playing seasons, the frequency of practice sessions, and the number of contests so that they shall not unreasonably conflict with student obligations to attend class regularly, to study, to develop their intellectual, moral, and social faculties, and to graduate from the University as educated men and women.

Other sections of the Task Force Report offer recommendations regarding Bylaws of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee; position descriptions for the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, Coaches, and the Academic Counselor for Athletics; Guidelines for Scheduling of Athletic Events; Guidelines and Policies for Eligibility and Financial Aid for Student-Athletes; and General Recommendations.

I will be taking the recommendations, as appropriate, to other University bodies for review and action. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Task Force on Academics and Athletics for their diligent and effective work.