

**Report of the Athletics Advisory Board
to the Faculty Senate - 21 April 2011
Submitted by Barbara F. Luebke, AAB Chair**

SECTION I

For the third consecutive year, I am happy to be able to describe the AAB's year as "very quiet." Because of Athletic Director Thorr Bjorn's inclusive and consultative style, along with his commitment to academics, the AAB was faced with no serious issues.

I am particularly pleased to report that the board was appropriately consulted and kept informed during the discussions and negotiations about joining the Northeast Conference for football beginning in 2013-14. In October the AAB unanimously voted to convey its support for the move to President Dooley.

The board also is active each year in reviewing and approving competition schedules, paying special attention to missed class time. Although isolated problems occur, adjustments agreed to over the last couple years have resulted in positive changes for student-athletes.

I also am pleased to report that our student-athletes continue to positively represent the university in the classroom, on the field and in the community. Regular visitors to goRhody.com see the evidence of this, but here are a few highlights of this academic year:

- For the fall semester, 31 percent of the 462 student-athletes were on the dean's list, the highest percentage since Spring 1995. Six percent were placed on probation.
- **Last week**, football player Matt Greenhalgh **became the second student-athlete this year to become a bone marrow donor. The other was Rachel Sliwowski, a member of the rowing team. Greenhalgh, a junior, is from Chepachet and is** a dean's list student. **Sliwowski is a freshman from Narragansett.** Each year since 2009, the football team has hosted a drive in support of the National Marrow Donor Program. This year's will be April 28 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on the Quad.

- Also last week, softball pitcher Jayshree Narendran, a junior majoring in general business administration, was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, the international honor society serving business programs accredited by the AACSB.

- Thirteen members of the football team were named to the 2010 CAA Football All-conference team.

- Men's basketball senior Will Martell earned his second consecutive Atlantic 10 Conference All-Academic team selection.

- The baseball team will host its fourth annual Autism Awareness game on April 30. All proceeds from the day will be donated to The Autism Project of Rhode Island and will benefit local children by providing new services and additional training for the teachers and professionals who care for individuals affected by Autism.

- Track and field junior Andrew Reigstad of Greenville, an accounting major, earned Atlantic 10 Academic All-Conference honors following the indoor season. He won the heptathlon with 4,888 points – a conference championship record -- at the A-10 Indoor Championship. Earlier in the season, he set a school record with 5,044 points en route to the event victory.

- Basketball senior Megan Shoniker, a physical education major, was named to the Atlantic 10 Women's Basketball Academic All-Conference squad. She also was named to the All-Conference Third Team, becoming just the second URI basketball player to earn All-Conference and Academic All-Conference honors in the same season.

- Cross country senior Brittany Pelsue, a pharmacy major, earned All A-10 Conference honors, the first Ram since 2005 to do so.

- The women's rowing team was awarded the 2009-10 Rhode Island Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (RIAIW) Outstanding Athletic Achievement award in January. Last year the program captured the 2010 Atlantic 10 Championship for the

second time in three years en route to earning a No. 6 ranking in the NCAA New England Region Division I poll. The Rams' regional ranking marked the first time in school history in which the team had been ranked regionally. In the classroom, the Rams placed 10 athletes on the 2010 Atlantic 10 Academic All-Conference Team, while six rowers were selected as Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association Scholar-Athletes. In late March, the team collected its second-consecutive Yankee Cup crown, and on April 2 the team claimed its fifth-consecutive Resolute Cup.

- Two women's soccer student-athletes earned postseason honors from the Atlantic 10. Courtney David, a biological sciences major, earned A-10 All-Academic honors for the second consecutive year. Kaylen Shimoda, a journalism major, was named to the All-Conference second team, marking the third year in a row that she was honored by the conference.
- The women's swimming and diving team earned Scholar All-America honors from the College Swimming Coaches Association of America for the fall semester. It was the 10th consecutive semester the team was cited. In order to receive recognition, a team must have a combined GPA of 3.0 or better. Twelve of the program's 32 members were named to the Dean's List, and six others recorded GPA's above 3.0 en route to a team GPA of 3.016 last fall.
- Track and field senior [Lara-Jane Que](#) picked up Atlantic 10 All-Conference honors based on her all-around performances on the track and in the classroom during the 2010-11 indoor season. She is a double-major in psychology and art.

SECTION II

On behalf of the Athletics Advisory Board, I am forwarding proposed "housekeeping" changes to sections of the University Manual related to the board. These proposed changes were **adopted unanimously** by the board.

The AAB recommends the following (deletions marked out and changes in bold)

5.14.10 The Athletics Advisory Board shall serve as a policy review board for all athletic programs for men and women, including intercollegiate, club, intramural, and recreational sports and the management of facilities and equipment. The Board shall make its recommendations to the President. In performing its functions, the Athletics Advisory Board shall advise and review, on a continuing basis, all fiscal, educational and social policy affecting all athletic programs, make recommendations regarding level of competition, and the nature of intercollegiate schedules. For the role of the Athletics Advisory Board on issues regarding championships and special tournaments during the final examination period see section 8.51.31 ~~The Board shall also approve University athletic awards.~~ **{{meaning is unclear re: what awards; no one recalls board involvement, and such involvement would be difficult because of timing issues}}**

5.14.11 The Board shall be comprised of nine voting members: four faculty members, one undergraduate student, one graduate student, two alumni; the President shall appoint one additional faculty member to serve as the ninth member and chairperson. The faculty membership shall be appointed in consultation with the Faculty Senate; the student membership shall be appointed in consultation with the Student Senate and the Graduate Student Association; the Alumni representatives shall be appointed in consultation with the Alumni Association. For each appointment made to the Board, each constituency shall nominate two persons. The President shall make appointments from among these nominations. Terms of appointment for faculty and representatives of the Alumni Association shall be for three years, renewable once at the end of the first term. Terms of appointment for students shall be for one year, renewable at the end of the first term. The Director of Athletics, the Associate Director/Senior Woman Administrator, the Assistant Director of Recreational Services, ~~the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs~~ **the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs** **{{update to reflect reorganization of office}}** and the president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee shall be ex officio non-voting members of the Board.