

Official: NU would support NCAA changes

By Thomas Clouse
Staff Reporter

Proposed NCAA rule changes could force some smaller universities out of the Division I ranking, but would benefit Division I sports, the Nebraska assistant athletic director said.

Al Papik, who is also UNL's NCAA compliance officer, said he thinks Nebraska will support the National Collegiate Athletic Association legislation.

"This plan has merit in creating a well-rounded collegiate program," he said.

Ted Tow, associate executive director of the NCAA, said the proposed rule changes would require universities to sponsor a minimum of

seven men's and seven women's sports to be ranked Division I.

The NCAA Presidents Commission promised in October to fight for the restructuring plan, which will be debated at January's NCAA convention.

Papik said that currently the NCAA requires universities to sponsor six men's and six women's sports to be eligible for Division I competition.

"We feel the seven (men's) and seven (women's) sports requirement would be a fair number," Papik said.

Some universities sponsor only 12 men's and women's sports, yet they get the same treatment and voting power as schools like Nebraska that sponsor 20 sports, Papik said.

"Based on that philosophy," he

said, "we favor a fewer number of schools in Division I."

Bob Devaney, Nebraska athletic director, said the rule changes shouldn't affect Nebraska's competition.

"I see no drastic effects," Devaney said, "but it will be tougher for smaller Division I schools" to maintain that ranking.

Papik said each Division I sport has a minimum number of contests a team must play for the university to count it as a sport.

"Currently, not all of those contests have to be played against Division I teams," he said.

Tow said the proposal would require Division I schools to play the minimum number of mandatory contests against Division I schools.

Also, half the games played above the minimum number would have to be played against Division I teams, Tow said.

As an example, Tow said, "The current minimum contests to count baseball a sport is 27 contests. They would have to play all 27 against Division I teams to meet the proposed requirement."

If the school played 20 more contests over the minimum of 27, he said, it would have to play 10 of those 20 games against Division I teams.

Another part of the proposal would require Division I universities to give at least 50 percent of the maximum number of grants and scholarships the NCAA allows, Tow said.

For example, Tow said, schools now can give a maximum of 13 full grants to baseball players.

Under the proposed changes, all Division I schools would be required to give baseball athletes at least 6.5 grants, Tow said.

The proposed rule changes are not attempting to "kick" any schools out

of Division I, Tow said. "The restructuring plan is just trying to set some requirements to make them (Division I teams) more equal," he said.

He said he didn't know how many schools the changes could affect, but it would hurt smaller sports programs. "Some schools sponsor football and basketball, and give little or none to other sports," Tow said.

Most major sports programs give scholarships to all sports and would not be affected by the proposed rule changes, Tow said.

Papik said the NCAA is giving universities enough lead time to plan ahead.

Tow agreed, saying the proposed rule changes shouldn't take the smaller schools by surprise.

"The schools who don't meet the requirements now would have three years to meet the criteria," he said.

Gosch suggests search revisions

By Tabitha Hiner
Senior Reporter

UNL Student Regent Phil Gosch on Saturday urged the NU Board of Regents to learn from the presidential search when it seeks a chancellor for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"I think we would all agree that there were some things that in hindsight maybe we would have done differently in the presidential search," said Gosch, the president of the Association of Students of the University

of Nebraska. Gosch said the interim chancellor should either agree not to take the position of chancellor or make it known from the beginning that he or she is interested in the position.

"I think that if a vice chancellor or dean intends on seeking a permanent appointment, the students, the faculty, the Board of Regents and this entire state deserves to know that from point one," he said.

Gosch also asked the board to "aggressively seek out minority and


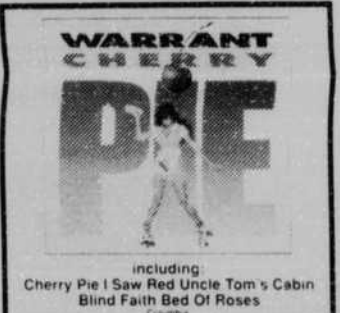


women candidates." "It is disappointing to me and to many students to know that at UNL, our chancellors' cabinet is comprised entirely of white males," Gosch said.

He said students and faculty members should have the "majority of representation on the search group."

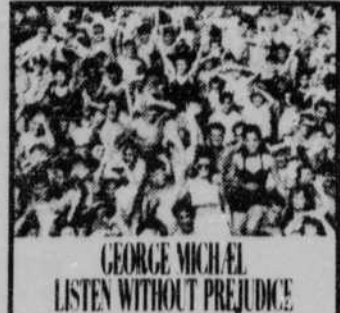
If suggestions such as his are used, Gosch said, "we can make this search better than our search for president and I think we can turn around, dispel some of the perceptions of our Board of Regents."

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