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Athletics needs faculty input, Brand says

By Carrie Dennett
Emerald Associate Editor

President Myles Brand is asking faculty leaders to take a more active role in governance of the University's intercollegiate athletics program.

"I am convinced that the faculty of our university must play a more active role in setting policy for intercollegiate athletics," Brand wrote in a Nov. 19 letter to University Senate President Paul Engleking.

The letter asked Engleking to appoint a small adhoc committee of faculty and student members to work with Dave Hubin, Brand's executive assistant, and Vice President Dan Williams. They will look for ways to get more faculty members involved with the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee.

At the November senate meeting, some senate members

called for more faculty involvement in athletic funding.

Engleking, a chemistry professor, said he will announce the adhoc committee members at the next University Senate meeting on Dec. 11.

Engleking said he expects the committee will report to the senate in three months.

The Intercollegiate Athletics Committee, established by faculty legislation in 1960, can make recommendations concerning athletic policy.

"Essentially, the next decision point will come in June," Engleking said, "so we would like to be ready before that."

By June, the end of the fiscal year, the State Board of Higher Education must make a decision on how to fund athletic debts at Oregon, Oregon State and Portland State Universities.

Brand said despite accusations of waste in the athletic

department, he maintains confidence in the athletics program's management.

"Under the leadership of Athletic Director Bill Byrne, the department has managed its programs and finances well," Brand said in a written statement. "However, we need to look at our policies differently now because we're operating in a new environment due to Measure 5."

Brand said the new committee is designed to ensure that the existing faculty panel remains responsible for overseeing department policy, including budgetary policy.

"My aim is to ensure that the University of Oregon Intercollegiate Athletics program is the most efficiently operated department anywhere," he said.

Brand said an option the committee might consider would be renewing the practice of naming three public voting members to the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee. In 1968, positions for three student voting members were added. In 1973, three positions for non-University voting members were approved.

Richard Francisco, a staff psychologist at the University Counseling Center, is chair of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee. Student members are Christopher Greyerbiehl, a junior finance major, and Sheila Stickel, a senior sociology major and former ASUO vice president.

Byrne is a non-voting member of the committee.

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