

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 7, 2009
To: Members of Senate
From: Tom Warden, Athletics Director
Subject: Athletics

Athletics is an integral part of the University life style and is important to the educational development of each and every student. A focused athletics program creates a University environment that fosters friendship, goodwill and overall fitness. Athletics enhances Lakehead image by adding diversity and richness to university life.

Lakehead University's dynamic and varied Athletics Department recognizes the necessity for comprehensive recreational and club programming as well as competitive varsity programs. We work diligently to ensure students' time at our University is as enjoyable as possible.

1. Academics and the Athlete.

Our department recognizes the challenges faced by student athletes in balancing success both in athletics and in the classroom. We have implemented the following program to assist in their success:

A) Academic Assistance Program (SASP).

SASP: Lakehead Athletics continues to be a leader in academic support for Student-Athletes. The Student Athlete Success Program (SASP) is an academic assistance program that has been designed to create dialogue between the student athlete, coach, faculty, and athletic advisors. It allows any potential academic problems to be identified quickly and intervention to occur at an early stage, as well as identifies academic achievement and accomplishments.

B) Report on Academic Achievement of Student-Athletes for 2008-2009

TEAM	NUMBER OF ATHLETES	TEAM AVERAGE	GRADUATE STUDENTS	NUMBER OF ACADEMIC ALL-CANADIANS
Women's Basketball	13	72.8	0	3
Men's Basketball	14	65.5	0	2
Women's Cross Country Running	8	77.4	1	3
Men's Cross Country Running	8	74.0	0	3
Men's Hockey	25	68.7	0	3
Women's Nordic Skiing	12	78.5	0	4**
Men's Nordic Skiing	9	72.2	0	4**
Women's Track & Field	16	78.4	1	5
Men's Track & Field	10	74.2	0	3
Women's Volleyball	14	75.1	1	4
Women's Wrestling	11	73.9	0	4
Men's Wrestling	18	68.6	1	3
*TOTALS	158	73.3	4	41

* Totals are of athletes that have utilized a year of eligibility in the 2008-2009 academic year.

** Denotes OUA Academic Achievement Award

2. Athletics and the Student

A) Competitive Programs.

Varsity Sports offerings	Men's	Women's
Basketball	✓	✓
Cross Country Running	✓	✓
Hockey – Men's	✓	
Nordic Skiing	✓	✓
Volleyball		✓
Track & Field	✓	✓
Wrestling	✓	✓
TOTAL PARTICIPATION	158	

B) Club Sports.

Club Sport offerings	Men's	Women's
Rugby	✓	✓
Ultimate Frisbee	✓	✓
Soccer	✓	✓
Volleyball	✓	
TOTAL PARTICIPATION	217	

C) Campus Recreation.

	Fall	Winter
Aerobics & Yoga	210	
Outdoor Soccer	235	
Flag Football	120	
Volleyball League	87	
Ultimate Frisbee League	75	
Golf League	28	
Hockey Leagues (NBC, Co-ed)	370	
Total Fall Term Participants	1125	

	Fall	Winter
Aerobics, Yoga and Spinning		254
Indoor Soccer		380
Volleyball League & Tournament		160
Ball Hockey		70
Flag Football League		130
Co-ed Basketball Leagues		135
Total Winter Term		1129
TOTAL PARTICIPATION		2258

D) Highlights.

- The Men's and Women's Nordic Ski programs won the OUA Championships
- The Women's Nordic Ski program won the CIS Championship
- Lakehead University Hosted the 2009 Cavendish Cup. Over 40,000 people attended the national championships for Men's Hockey, which earned excellent national exposure.
- Women's Basketball were successful in making the OUA playoffs
- Men's Hockey won the Christmas Tbaytel Varsity cup
- Wrestling medaled at OUA Championships
- Men's Wrestling captured their second straight national gold medal at the CIS Wrestling Championships (54 kg)
- Men's Hockey athlete won the CIS Randy Gregg Award
- Campus Recreation and Club sport participation is very good and continued to be an area of growth for the department
- All Varsity programs have had excellent recruiting classes this year.
- Lakehead continues to have fantastic attendance at Varsity events.

3) Facilities.

Lakehead University students, staff and faculty enjoy extensive fitness facilities at the C.J. Sanders Fieldhouse. We are proud to offer the 15,000 square foot Thunderdome gymnasium, state-of-the-art Wolves' Den fitness centre, 50 meter 8 lane swimming pool, cardio room, outdoor sports fields, outdoor beach volleyball court, Kinesiology labs, squash court, change rooms complete with saunas and tanning beds. In 2005, Lakehead completed an all-new, 50,000 square foot facility to complement the Fieldhouse containing a 200-meter track, artificial turf field, climbing wall, and additional weight training, aerobic, and cardio areas. This modern facility greatly increases the athletic resources available to students.

We have continued to improve our athletic facilities in 2009 and we approach substantial completion on a major renovation of our facilities. This renovation includes a complete upgrade of the pool area that has addressed deferred maintenance issues and now includes accessibility for students and users with special needs. The retrofit also includes an upgrade of our change rooms and a complete overhaul of our security and access protocol.

The fact that funds for this project have been garnered through a student levy we have started charging all faculty and staff for the use of the athletic facilities and associated programming.

4) Governance.

Governance structure includes the following committees, boards or councils: Athletics Advisory Board, Varsity Council, Risk Management Committee.

Submitted by: Tom Warden, Athletics Director