

10-9-2006 GSR at 77%

1 (File: 20061009GSR)

2 JOSH CENTOR: NCAA president Myles Brand's goal of an
3 80 percent Graduation Success Rate for Division I is a
4 percentage point closer to fruition with the release of NCAA
5 data showing the overall GSR for the division at 77 percent,
6 up from 76 percent last year.

7 FEMALE SPEAKER: All the trends and the data are
8 headed in the right direction.

9 JOSH CENTOR: Brand said.

10 FEMALE SPEAKER: There's upward movement across the
11 board, though there still are some outliers and some more work
12 to be done.

13 JOSH CENTOR: In addition to the increase for the
14 entire division, the GSR for male student athletes rose from
15 69 percent to 70 percent. The GSR for female student athletes
16 remained steady at an already high 86 percent. The data is
17 from the four class aggregate from entering classes from 1996
18 through 1999 for which the NCAA has compiled sport-by-sport
19 GSR, and the comparable graduation rate using the federal
20 methodology required annually of colleges and universities
21 through the 1990 student Right To Know Act.

22 The NCAA developed the GSR two years ago because the
23 federal rate does not credit institutions with student
24 athletes who leave in good academic standing or for transfers
25 into the school who graduate. The GSA accounts for both of

1 those transfer groups, which has resulted in a more accurate
2 depiction of student athlete academic success, since it
3 captures about 35 percent more students than the federal
4 methodology.

5 The NCAA continues to provide the federally mandated
6 graduation rate, however, since there was no comparable rate
7 for the GSR for the student population. If the U.S.
8 Department of Education adopts the unit record system for
9 every student, as recommended by the Secretary's Commission on
10 the Future of Higher Education, comparable data to the GSR
11 will be available through the federal rate.

12 The GSR release is the first of two this fall, and it
13 includes four class averages for each team at each
14 institution, as well as the four class Federal Graduation Rate
15 for that sport. Because the focus is at the team level, the
16 data are provided as four class aggregates, since that format
17 is a much more accurate indicator of a team's academic
18 performance than any single cohort rate.

19 The NCAA will release each institution's overall
20 Federal Graduation Rate in November. The NCAA also will
21 include each school's overall GSR for student athletes on the
22 federal report, as well as breakdowns by gender and race.

23 University of Hartford president, Walter Harrison, who
24 chairs the NCAA Executive Committee and the Division I
25 Committee on Academic Performance, said the GSR reports

1 provide another valuable tool for presidents to measure
2 student athletic performance.

3 FEMALE SPEAKER: And the good news is that the results
4 show that presidents, athletics directors, and coaches are
5 paying attention to academic concerns.

6 JOSH CENTOR: Harrison said.

7 FEMALE SPEAKER: These reports provide an important
8 management tool for presidents to celebrate the academic
9 success of teams that achieve high marks and to raise
10 questions of those that don't.

11 JOSH CENTOR: All three Division I subdivisions also
12 realized percentage point jumps in the four class GSR data
13 from 1996 to 1999. Schools with football in the Bowl
14 subdivision, formally Division I-A, went from 77 to
15 78 percent; schools with football in the championship
16 subdivision, formerly Division I-AA went from 73 to
17 74 percent; and schools that do not sponsor football went from
18 79 to 80 percent, meeting President Brand's goal, he announced
19 earlier this fall, during a speech as ULAN (phonetic)
20 University.

21 FEMALE SPEAKER: The goal of 80 percent GSR is not an
22 official NCAA goal, but one that I think stretches us and can
23 be accomplished.

24 JOSH CENTOR: President Brand said.

25 FEMALE SPEAKER: Division I is close to that goal now

1 at 77 percent, and these data do not fully reflect academic
2 reforms Division I has adopted in the last three years.

3 JOSH CENTOR: The entering class of 2003, for example,
4 is the first one subjected to enhanced initial eligibility and
5 progress toward degree requirements. Brand also said the
6 intrusion of the Academic Progress Rate has prompted
7 institutions to redouble their efforts toward ensuring student
8 athlete academic success.

9 FEMALE SPEAKER: I believe the 80 percent target for
10 the entire division is attainable in the near future. A one
11 percentage point increase from last year may not sound like
12 much.

13 JOSH CENTOR: He said.

14 FEMALE SPEAKER: But when you get these high numbers,
15 such an increase is of consequence, and I believe we can
16 stretch it further.

17 JOSH CENTOR: Many individual sports are well above
18 the 80 percent mark already. Skiing, at 89 percent, lacrosse
19 at 88 percent, and fencing at 87 percent, were the highest
20 ranking men's sports in the GSR, while gymnastics, fencing,
21 field hockey, and skiing all were at 94 percent on the women's
22 side.

23 The lowest ranking sports for each gender in the GSR
24 were basketball at 59 percent, baseball at 65 percent, and
25 football also at 65 percent for men. And bowling, 70 percent;

1 rifle, 78 percent; and basketball, 82 percent for women.

2 The men's basketball GSR of 59 percent, though, was an
3 improvement from the 58 percent four class average posted by
4 the 1995/1998 cohort. Football bowl subdivision teams in the
5 1996/1999 cohort also rose one percentage point from 65 to
6 66 percent.

7 In key women's sports, gains in the four class average
8 occurred in basketball from 81 to 82 percent; ice hockey, 84
9 to 88 percent; softball, 84 to 58 percent; and soccer, 87 to
10 88 percent.

11 The research also lists the annual overall GSR by
12 sport for the entering classes from 1995 through 1999. Those
13 data show that the GSR for men has increased from 68 percent
14 to 71 percent and from 85 to 88 percent for women. Men's
15 basketball went from 56 percent to 61 percent in the same
16 period, while football bowl subdivision teams went from
17 63 percent to 68 percent.

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