Faculty Senate Resolution on Sport Management
And the Department of Kinesiology

May 5, 2008

The Faculty Senate recognizes the difficulties in the placement of the Sport Management program as one of three tracks within the Department of Kinesiology. The proposed present solution to this situation is not ideal, but hic et nunc, appears to represent the best course of action.

In consideration of a proposal for a major in Sport Management, the Faculty Senate finds that the uncertainty in the future mission, structure, and governance of Kinesiology limits rational placement of Sport Management within the university’s present academic structure. The solution that has been found for supporting this program arises ab inconvenienti, is awkward, is not without controversy, and has required a tremendous amount of work from all parties involved. Given this, it seems likely that future problems may arise with this program or others from Kinesiology.

By this resolution, the Faculty Senate approves the interdisciplinary major in Sport Management as proposed, but also strongly urges the administration to prioritize the exploration of how the problems surrounding the Department of Kinesiology can be solved and to articulate to the Senate a long-term plan by the conclusion of the 2008-2009 academic year.

A vision should be developed that allows the Sport Management program to be properly placed, considering both the uniqueness of Rice’s academic programs and aspirations at a national level, as well as Rice’s standing among its peer institutions. The ultimate decision should be consistent with Rice’s vision for the Second Century, according to which it hopes to become a major research university, to invest in a select number of interdisciplinary endeavors, to engage the City of Houston, and to “provide a holistic undergraduate experience that equips our students with the knowledge, the skills, and the values to make a distinctive impact in the world.”