



MYTHS & FACTS

December 2004

MYTHS

Myth: Athletics is Primarily Funded by the State and University

- Starting with the 2004-05 fiscal year, 100% of ICA's budget will come from self-generated funds, such as: ticket sales, television revenues, concessions, donations and post-season bowls and tournaments. (The Arizona Board of Regents grants 315 tuition waivers to Arizona and ASU annually. It also grants 280 tuition waivers to NAU.)

This self-sufficiency results from the following:

- Effective July 1, 2003 athletics no longer received an annual \$1.2 million allocation of state appropriated monies, and
- ICA agreed to help fund the new Student Union facility by giving back to the University its annual registration fee allocation of \$495,000. The annual allocation to the Athletics Department was reduced by \$100,000 per year, starting with the 1999-2000 fiscal year. By June 30, 2004 the Athletics Department no longer received any registration fee allocation. During this five year period Athletics gave back to the University \$1,495,000. Thereafter, the Student Union will benefit in the amount of \$495,000 per year.



Myth: Athletics Is The University's "Cash Cow"

- ICA is proud of the fiscal responsibility its staff has shown. ICA has exercised fiscal responsibility and has never been a "Cash Cow." (Note: Approximately 80% of Division 1A programs are now operating in the "red", which indicates that Arizona Athletics has displayed a high degree of fiscal restraint and managerial expertise to remain in the black.)
- ICA has had a positive year-end fund balance since fiscal year 1985. Since then ICA has maintained on average, a \$500,000 fund balance to safeguard against revenue shortfalls (e.g. gate receipts). Reserves in excess of \$500,000 have been used primarily to fund capital projects (e.g. gymnastics facility).
- In an effort to stabilize the budget, the Athletics Department affected 11 positions in 1984 by eliminating 9, reducing 2, and dropping a sport. The department had dropped four other sports in 1981. Currently, there is an ongoing comprehensive program review designed to safeguard fiscal stability in the future. In the last three years ICA has eliminated 15 positions through lay off and attrition.

Myth: University Funds are Used for ICA Capital Projects

- During the past 15 years more than \$38,000,000 in capital improvements have been completed by ICA with self-generated funds. Athletics has not received any State appropriated funds for capital improvements since McKale Center was built in 1972.
 - Example: All funds required for the Eddie Lynch Athletics Pavilion were donated to Athletics from the private sector.
 - Example: The practice gymnastics' facility was built with windfall profits realized from participation in the 1994 Fiesta Bowl.

Myth: Athletics Does Not Pay For Its Scholarship Costs (Grants-in-Aid)

- ICA receives 315 tuition waivers from the Arizona Board of Regents; however, approximately \$2.1 million, or 6.2%, of its 2004-05 budget will be expended by ICA towards student/athlete financial aid. These dollars are used for room, board, books and benefit on-campus units (i.e. Housing, Student Union Food Services and Bookstore).

Moreover, the State provides the University (not ICA) an annual allocation per FTE student of approximately \$5,000 so the 315 student-athletes who receive tuition waivers bring about \$1.5 million annually to the University.

Note: The Arizona Board of Regents also grants ASU 315 tuition waivers and NAU 280 waivers.



Myth: Millions Are Made Through Participation in Bowl Games And Post-Season Tournaments

- The University does not receive the full financial payout offered by a football bowl game. Instead, after expenses all bowl revenues are split equally among the Pac-10 institutions.
- The Athletics Department netted only \$180,000 after the Pac-10 split, from its 1998 participation in the Holiday Bowl.
- In 2001-02 fiscal year, the Athletics Department received \$1.3 Million from funds generated by the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. This NCAA allocation was based on the following elements:
 - Number of institutional grants-in-aid.
 - Pac-10 participation share from the NCAA Tournament.
 - Academic Program enhancement funds.
 - Number of institutionally sponsored sports.
 - Special Assistance Fund - to be distributed to student-athletes in need.



Myth: Athletics Covers Up Its Problems

- The Athletics Department is held responsible to as many or more agencies and regulations than any other unit on campus:
 - ICA is governed by the rules and regulations of the:
 - Arizona Board of Regents
 - University
 - Pac-10 Conference
 - National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA)
 - ICA is required to provide the NCAA with an annual revenue and expense audit conducted by an outside firm.
 - Each institution in the NCAA is required to have an outside certification review every 10 years, and file an interim report every 5 years. The UA completed the first round of the NCAA certification and interim process and was certified in all areas (Governance & Compliance, Fiscal Integrity, Academic Integrity and Equity).

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Myth: Athletics Covers Up Its Problems (continued)

- Every three years the NCAA requires that a group external to the University of Arizona audit the ICA Compliance Department.
 - Every year the Department of Athletics reports academic, budget and student-athlete welfare issues to the ABOR.
 - The University Intercollegiate Athletics Committee (ICAC), comprised of faculty, community representatives and ASUA president, appointed by and responsible to the President, regularly monitors academic performance rules, regulations, and ICA policies.
- ICA staff provides annual reports to the faculty and is available for any inquiries.
 - ICA has met with the Committee of Eleven on several occasions.
 - ICA programs are exposed daily to the media and are under its constant scrutiny.



Myth: University Rules Do Not Apply To Student-Athletes

- Student-athletes are held to the same UA admission requirements as the general student body.
- Student-athletes must also meet NCAA requirements for initial (test scores, core classes and core GPA) and continuing eligibility certification.
- Academics certification for athletics eligibility is performed by the Office of the Registrar.
- Continuing eligibility rules for student-athletes involve:
 - University rules;
 - NCAA rules (governed by status in school: progress toward degree; 40%/ 60% / 80% rule; GPA Requirements; 75% -25% academic year vs. summer school rule).
 - Arizona Board of Regents and NCAA rules: must meet minimum GPA/hour requirements each semester; and must meet certain academic requirements to receive a post-eligibility scholarship;
 - Specific team rules
- Student-athletes also must adhere to:
 - University Code of Conduct;
 - Intercollegiate Athletics Code of Conduct;
 - NCAA Code of Ethics;
 - Drug Testing Policy
 - State and Federal Laws



Myth: Student-Athletes Are Dumb Jocks

- In 13 out of the past 14 years, student-athletes have graduated at an equal or higher rate when compared to the general student body. (In 2004, 65% of the student-athletes graduated, compared to 55% of the general student body).
- In 2004, the Persistence Graduation Rate (excluding those who left in good standing) shows an 85% overall student-athlete graduation rate (76% for men and 92% for women). Ten teams have a 100% persistence graduation rate.
- More than 79% of the student-athletes who exhausted their eligibility graduated in 2004.
- In the 2004 calendar year, 15 student-athletes achieved a 4.0 GPA and 149 (34%) achieved a 3.0 or higher GPA.
- Three ICA teams had a 3.0 or higher combined GPA for the 2003-04 year and eleven teams had a 2.8 or higher GPA.
- The highest GPA in 2003-04 for a men's team was 2.9 (Cross Country and Swimming) and for a women's team was 3.1 (Swimming).

FACTS

Fact: Athletics Gives Back

- ICA gives back to the campus and the community in a variety of ways. Some of the major contributions are:
 - Every year more than 300 student-athletes participate in more than 1,500 hours in the C.A.T.S. Smith Project's Speaker Bureau. During the past year student-athletes spoke to approximately 25,000 local school children.
 - In the last 11 years, ICA has spent approximately \$2 million for the UA marching band (\$80,000 annually), plus all expenses for Bowls and post-season band travel (\$120,000 in 1998-99). The \$2 million includes \$90,000 of new equipment (sousaphones) purchased in 1994.
 - Game expenses are waived (\$10,000 per year) to support "Lame For A Game" (annual fundraiser for UA disabled student center).
 - Student Fees totaling \$1,495,000, from fiscal year 1999-00 through 2003-04 were given back to the University to help finance the new Student Union.

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Fact: Athletics Gives Back (continued)

- ICA offers faculty/staff season tickets at a 15% discount off regular price. Discounted value exceeds \$200,000 annually.
- UA students receive discounted ticket prices (from 60% to 80% off the regular price) for football and men's basketball and free admission to all other sporting events. Discounted value exceeds \$1.5 million per year.
- ICA supports UA spirit groups (cheerleaders, mascots, pom line, twirlers) - \$40,000 per year.
- Faculty Fellows support - \$5,000 per year.
- Alumni Homecoming function - \$5,000 per year.
- Campus Academic Advisor position - \$41,000 per year.

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Fact: Athletics Gives Back (continued)

- ICA supports numerous other campus organizations and units at approximately \$15,000 per year.
- UA students (non-athletes) are paid ICA wages in excess of \$550,000 per year.
- ICA gives the Student Union \$325,000 per year in trademarks and licensing fees.
- ICA staff and student-athletes donate time and effort to many Tucson charities and organizations.
- Items are provided annually to local non-profits for raffles, door prizes and silent auctions.
- Nearly 700 school children participated in ICA facility tours.
- The Cheerleaders and Mascots participate or appear annually at more than 100 community events.

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Fact: ICA is One of the Top Programs in the Country

- The Arizona Wildcats have won 16 National Team Championships and 35 Pacific-10 Conference Team Championships.
- Arizona Wildcats have won 103 Individual National Championships.
- Since 1994 ICA has been ranked annually in the top 10 all but one year in the Director's Cup for athletic programs and has finished as high as 4th, in 1994-95.
- More than 90 Arizona student-athletes have competed in the Olympics, with seven gold medalists in the 2004 Athens Games.
- Nearly 100 former student-athletes are currently playing sports professionally in the NFL, NBA, MLB, PGA, LPGA, WNBA, as well as competing on the world stage in Olympic sports.

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Fact: ICA is One of the Top Programs in the Country (continued)

- Since 1994, seven female student-athletes have received nine Honda Awards. The Honda Award is the nation's most prestigious award honoring female amateur student-athletes. Arizona has had half a dozen other finalists for that National Player of the Year award in several sports.
- The national Life Skills Program offered by the NCAA and the Division IA Athletics Director's Association was modeled after ICA's C.A.T.S. Program (Commitment to an Athletes Total Success).
 - In 1999, the CATS program received an award from the Division 1A Athletics Directors Association as one of the top Life Skills programs in the nation.

