



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

University of Oregon Assembly Actions Concerning Athletics  
21 September 1891 through 14 January 1959  
Compiled by Peter B Gilkey (April 2007)

Dear Colleagues.

The complete UO Assembly records are now online and are linked from the main Assembly web page. Volumes 2, 3, and 4 have been catalogued – these comprise the period 21 September 1891 through 14 January 1959. We found these volumes to be a fascinating historical record and look forward to perusing the remaining Assembly volumes presently. Furthermore, we have found this record to be very relevant to the recent discussion in the UO Senate concerning athletics and present some items of potential interest from this 68 year without further comment.

Peter B. Gilkey, Professor of Mathematics  
22 April 2007

February 1894 Page 88: Moved and carried that no student be allowed to play in a college team whose standing is under 85.

11 December 1894 Page 115: Moved and carried that President be requested to communicate with the Presidents of the other colleges in the state with a view to eliminating the brutal features of football.

5 October 1895 Page 134: Moved and carried that there shall be a committee of two members of the Faculty appointed by the President and the Athletic Club shall elect a member to act with these and these three shall constitute the University Committee on Athletics. All proceedings of the Athletic Club concerning Intercollegiate games must have the approval of this committee. This shall in no way interfere with the parliament authority of the Faculty. The committee shall report to the Faculty at every regular meeting.

Page 161 (8 February 1897) The duties and membership of the Committee on Athletics are spelled out further.

**Qualifications for membership in University Teams**

1. The candidate must have 42 credits earned.
2. He must maintain a student character above reproach to be eligible to membership or retain his position on a team.
3. He must have maintained a standing of 85% in each of his studies during the preceeding semeseter to be admitted to membership on a team and must maintain that standing to be retained on a team.

4. He must have been a student of this University at least one year and if the student has registered after the opening of the University year must have registered at least two months before joining the team.

**The Coach**

1. The Coach must be of good moral character.
2. He must be a college graduate.
3. He must be approved by the Athletic Committee before he is employed

**Game and contests**

1. No games shall be played except with colleges.
2. The football season shall close December 1st.
3. The schedule of games shall be submitted to the faculty for approval before any games are arranged.

**General Management:** All actions and resolutions of the Athletic club and of all teams must be reported to the Athletic Committee for approval.

**The Athletic Committee:** The faculty shall elect a committee of four to exercise its full powers in matters of Athletics.

Page 241 (1 May 1899): Moved and carried that the Faculty withdraw its objection to the employment of [name deleted] as coach for the Athletic Association.

Page 243 (18 May 1899): Petition of the athletic club asking students be permitted to go to Salem Friday June 2 was granted.

Page 247 (21 September): The question of further restrictions for entrance into the football team was referred to the Committee on athletics.

Page 284 (9 February 1901): The legislation of 1897 is revised to be:

**I. Qualifications for memberships in teams.**

1. The candidate must have earned 17 credits in the university. This requirement may be considered satisfied if the student during the second semester of his second year has met all other requirements.

2. He must maintain a student character above reproach to be eligible to membership or to retain his position on a team.

3. He must have earned 10 credits during the preceding semester with the mark of C or better and must not have made any failures in examinations to be admitted to membership on a team and he must maintain said standing in order to retain his membership.

4. If the student has registered after the opening of the University year, he must have been registered at least one month before taking part in any intercollegiate contest.

**II. The coach**

1. The coach must be of good moral character.
2. He must be a college graduate.
3. He must be approved by the athletic committee before he is approved.

**III. Games and contests**

1. The football season shall close December 1st.
2. No games shall be played except with teams of colleges that earn at least 10 college credits. This shall not apply to the annual meet at Salem.
3. The schedule of games shall be submitted to the faculty for approval before any games are arranged.
4. General management - all actions and resolutions of the athletic club and of all teams must be reported to the athletic committee for approval.

Page 325-326 (September 1902): ... after the present year the membership of the Athletic Council shall consist of the President of the University, three members of the faculty, three members of the Alumni, three undergraduate students of the University. The recommendation of the Athletic Committee that the University of Oregon become a member of the Northwestern Intercollegiate Athletic Association was adopted.

Page 329 (5 February 1903): The report of the athletic committee, recommending that the eligibility rules of the University be changed so as to harmonize with the rules of the NIAA was adopted

Page 413 (7 December 1905): On motion of Professor Sheldon, it was decided to cooperate with Stanford and the University of California in the matter of the revision of the football rules and if no action should be taken by them that the President take such action as he may deem wise.

Page 425 (5 April 1906 ): It was carried that that the delegates from the University of Oregon to any Northwest athletic conference be instructed that it is the sense of the faculty of the University that no student during his first year of residence at the University shall be eligible to membership on any athletic team representing the University and that no student shall be allowed to represent the University in athletics for more than three (3) years.... a committee was appointed, consisting of Professors DeCou, Howe, and Stafford, to get all possible information in regard to the football situation, east and west, and report at the next meeting of the Faculty.

Page 443 (28 May 1906) The special committee on athletics further recommends that our representative be instructed to secure, if possible, concurrence in the following regulations:

1. That no football team consisting in whole or in part of college students shall play with high schools or academies.
2. That not more than five inter-collegiate football games be played in one season.
3. That the introduction of Association football as a college sport be encouraged.

The following regulations are recommended for discussion at the conference:

1. That freshman teams and second elevens shall play only with teams from their own institutions.

2. That not more than fifty cents shall be charged at any game for any seat whether reserved or not for members of the University and that a less sum shall be charged if possible.

3. That no training table shall be maintained.

4. That after the school year 1906-7 there shall be no coaching except by regularly employed of the instructional force approved by the regents of the University on recommendation of the faculty.

Of related historical interest is the following 491ff of Volume 2 (3 October 1907) which gives some insight into the “governing board of the University; the language is quite similar to later language still quoted today: The committee appointed to ascertain what action may have been taken by the Board of Regents excluding all but voting members of the faculty from faculty meetings begs to report that no record of \* of any kind relating to this matter can be found. The records of faculty meetings up to and including the meeting of March 8 1901 shows all instructors present and voting; the roll-call at all subsequent meetings shows the presence of Professors and Assistant Professors only. In 1904 the board appointed a committee to assemble and solidify the various rules and regulations passed by the Board from time to time etc and in the report of this committee, which was adopted and the only reference to faculty meetings is contained in section 8, the significant portion is as follows:

**Section 8.** The faculty shall consist of the President and Professors, although for the present the heads of all departments be recognized as members thereof. It shall have the immediate government and discipline of the university and the students thereof, may make and enforce all necessary rules and regulations therefore may prescribe courses of study and text-books. Regular meetings of the faculty shall be held at least once each month during sessions of the university and a record kept, etc .....

Since it appears to have been the intention of the board to define the governing body of the university, there seems to be an obstacle in the way of this body's admitting to its meetings at any \* whomever it may wish to admit. This committee would recommend therefore that to all future regular meetings of the faculty and other meetings as may be deemed advisable, all members of the \* force of the university of the rank of full instructor be \* and urged to be present.

## Volume 3

5 November 1908. Volume 3 page 3. Report of committee on student activities

1) Football. Compared with other colleges, we are on the same basis in regard to the number of contests and days absent from university work. Local conditions indicate (a) present system of training is too strenuous for the average student to do good university work. (b) long trips are undesirable.

2) Baseball. Compared with other colleges, we are below the average in contests and days absent. No local trouble reported

3) Track. Compared with other colleges, we are slightly above the average in contests and days absent. (Due to unusual schedule last year).

In general there is a tendency toward restriction in athletics. Practically no rules governing number of absences and number of contests other than sanction of schedules by athletic committee

4) Social conditions interfere seriously with University work - specifically when occurring in mid-week and during first month of the college year.

5) Oratory interferes slightly with the work of a few seniors just before the close of college year

6) Debate interferes very seriously with the university work of a few men for about four weeks preceeding the contest but this interference depends largely on the personality or other activities of the man

7) Periodicals. The Oregon weekly interferes seriously with the university of its editor. Criticism probably due largely to the fact that the editor is too often interested in other student activities.

3 Dec 1908 page 6 motion carried "it is the sense of this faculty that all future football games between the Oregon Agricultural College and the University of Oregon be played as campus games"

1 April 1909 Report of the Athletic Committee "In the judgement of the faculty, no student should be encouraged by request or implication to devote more than the hours 4 to 730 PM to football training and further that any tendency to exceed these hours be definitely discouraged. This training to be construed to cover all work devoted to the development of the teams.

7 December 1909 page 37. Athletic Council is required to give 3 reports covering fully the football situation at the regular faculty meetings in September, October, and November.

5 May 1910 Page 53. A lengthy (3 page) entitled "A declaration on Intercollegiate Athletics and the Higher Interests of the University and State". It is much to long to quote entire. The somewhat negative report ends with section 5.b calling for. "an appeal to the other institutions in the Pacific Northwest to cooperate in this movement of reform for it is recognized that the grip of the perverted practice of inordinate devotion to intercollegiate athletics is so strong that it is beyond the power of one institution to cope with it single-handed."

1 June 1911 page 77. "No student shall represent the University in more than one branch of athletics during any one season, each year to be divided into two seasons, the first including all fall and winter sports such as foot-ball, basket-ball, etc. and the second all spring sports such as base-ball, track, tennis, etc."

5 October 1911 page 83. "it is the sense of the faculty that all Freshman intercollegiate football games be prohibited".

4 January 1912 page 88. Petition was granted that "the basketball team be allowed four day's absence from the University on account of the Eastern Washington - Idaho trip."

23 September 1912 page 106. "Resolved, that the custom of maintaining at student body expense boarding tables for athletic teams is no longer justified by the practice of the best universities and should be discontinued.

31 October 1912 page 108. permission was granted to schedule an additional game of football making six games for this year.

9 January 1913 page 112. Motion passed "that the basketball team be permitted four days of absence from the University this year, specifying that they are to return to the University for work on Monday February 17th.

22 October 1915 page 177. At a special the following report was adopted:

**Section I.** That the University of Oregon continue intercollegiate athletics and intra-mural sports; for the latter provision shall be made sufficient to permit every student to take daily exercise in his favorite branch of sport.

**Section II.** That the University re-assert its purpose to maintain all college sports on the highest and cleanest amateur basis.

**Section III** That the gate receipts should be subordinated as a factor in intercollegiate athletics and to this end all coaches, trainers, and athletic directors should be permanent employees of genuine educational standing, paid wholly from the general funds of the institutions to which they are attached and in no way dependent upon the commercial success of their respective sports

**Section IV.** That the University of Oregon forbid all scouting for athletes by its official representatives and discourage in all possible ways scouting by students, alumni, and other friends of the institution. Official adoption of this policy is urged upon the Northwest Conference. Scouting consists in the offering of any inducement to students with a view to their becoming candidates for position on varsity teams.

**Section V.** That the representatives of the University at Conference meetings which determine or control intercollegiate athletics shall be appointed by the President from the University faculty and that the same general policy shall be urged upon the Northwest Conference.

**Section VI.** That the three faculty members of the athletic council constitute a standing committee of the faculty instructed to report at least once each semester.

**Section VII.** That the University of Oregon urges the adoption by the Northwest Conference of the rule that no freshman or any other student during his first year in the institution shall be permitted to take part in intercollegiate athletics

**Section VII** That the pre-season training camp for the varsity football squad be discontinued and the same policy be urged upon the northwest conference.

**Section IX** That the practice period of football and baseball varsity teams be limited to from four o'clock to six-thirty o'clock.

**Section X** (not adopted)

**Section XI.** That intercollegiate football contests be limited to seven in any one season

**Section XII.** That Intercollegiate basketball games be suspended for the present to test the advantage of \* the athletic directors to give their whole attention to the development of intra-mural sports during the winter season.

**Section XII** That intercollegiate baseball as well as basketball be restricted to teams of institutions west of the Cascade mountains except as games with the winning team east of the mountains may be necessary to determine the northwest championship.

**Section XIV** No student shall take part in any student body enterprise unless he has satisfactorily since registration and is so carrying at least three-quarters of the regular work required each semester

13 November 1915 page 183: Permission was given for the Freshman Football team to accept a challenge from Marshfield High.

2 December 1915 page 183: Petition of students to reinstate basketball is denied.

3 February 1916 page 186: It was moved and carried that the following resolution which passed the Pacific Northwest Conference be adopted by the University of Oregon: "Resolved that the faculty of this University prohibit scouting in any form for prospective members of athletic squads. By scouting the conference has in mind such acts as the following: 1. Correspondence with the prospective athletes by coaches, managers, or any other persons in the pay of any conference member. 2. Offers for positions to prospective athletes. 3. Bringing of athletes to visit or compete on the campus at University or Student body expense.

5 October 1916 page 209. Petition of students to have basket ball reinstated as an intercollegiate sport was received and referred to the Committee on Athletics.

7 November 1916 page 215 The faculty Committee on athletics reported with the recommendation that basketball be reinstated as an intercollegiate sport. The report was adopted.

23 November 1916 page 216. Moved that the invitation of the Pasadena Rose Festival Committee inviting the football team of the University of Oregon to meet the University of Pennsylvania in the post season game on New Year's Day at Pasadena be accepted. Passed.

11 January 1917 page 222. Time was granted for a celebration of the victory in Pasadena.

6 June 1918 page 275. Professor Howe, Chairman of the Athletic Council and delegate to the Pacific Coast Conference Meeting June 7 1918 was instructed to suggest the discontinuance of inter-collegiate athletics during the period of the war.

4 March 1920 page 329. A petition was granted "to take the baseball team on a trip involving a longer period of absence than three days, namely from April 22 to May 2, was granted."

3 March 1921 Page 367: "Professor Howe, on behalf of the Faculty Athletic Committee, asked permission for the Football team to make a trip to Hawaii next winter, the trip involving the loss of approximately two weeks of school work. Permission was granted".

30 September 1920 page 354. "Announcement was made by Professor Howe as chairman of the athletic council that the University of Washington had suggested a football game between the Freshman of the University of Washington and the Freshmen of the University of Oregon. Professor Howe asked for objections and suggestions none of which were made at this time."

19 November 1920 page 357. A special meeting "to consider methods of dealing with the custom of unauthorized rallies by students following foot-ball games...hereafter every student absenting himself from class or laboratory on account of an unauthorized celebration following a foot-ball game shall receive a grade of failure for the term in each course in which absence occurs. Carried"

6 January 1921 page 361. "Professor Howe submitted the basketball schedule and asked that the rules regarding athletic contests during the week be suspended and the schedule be approved. It was moved and carried that Professor Howe's request be granted."

7 December 1921 page 383. "It was voted to authorize instructors to give either incompletes or early examinations to members of the football team absent from examinations on the trip to Honolulu, this same privilege to be extended to students accompanying the team."

3 May 1922 page 394. "Professor Howe announced the football schedule for the fall of 1922-23".

11 October 1922 page 405. "A committee of five be appointed to cooperate with representatives of the student-body in regulating the expense and time devoted by the freshman class in preparation of the football rally bonfire".

7 November 1923 page 435. The following petition granted by the faculty "Whereas the students and alumni of the University of Oregon are planning a bit rally in Portland this Friday evening previous to the Oregon-Stanford football game and whereas the attendance of a large number of students at the rally is necessary to its success and whereas many students will be prevented from attending because of Friday afternoon classes, therefore be it resolved that the Student Council of the Associated Students respectfully petition the faculty of the University of Oregon to declare this Friday afternoon a holiday."

1 December 1926 page 496. "Dr. Boynton reported the practice of the Academic Requirements Committee in refusing to allow the withdrawal from the University during the last month of the term of students who have enrolled solely or principally for participation in athletics."

## Volume 4

26 September 1928 (p535) Authorization of a football trip to Hawaii to play the University of Hawaii in January. A plan was presented "whereby the examination questions for the different courses in which the men were enrolled would be turned over to the faculty adviser and would be given to the men on the boat at the same time that the students who were in residence were taking the examinations in Eugene.

15 May 1929 (p544). The faculty granted permission to the graduate manager to sign a contract whereby the University of Oregon is to play the University of Florida at Miami Florida next December 7 1929.

21 November 1929 (p552). Permission refused by the faculty for 3 men to accompany the team to Miami because of poor scholastic records.

7 April 1948 (page 837). A committee is appointed to negotiate the sale of athletic tickets to faculty members. Faculty can purchase athletic tickets good for all athletic events during the entire school year for \$12.00

9 January 1952 (page 887). Report of committee on faculty athletic tickets concerning season athletic tickets for faculty members.

6 June 1956 (page 938). President Wilson stated that the faculty has every reason to be proud of the role of Orlando Hollis in meetings of the faculty representatives to the Pacific Coast Conference held this spring in connection with major violations of the Conference athletic code. He added that the athletic organization on this campus has been operating conscientiously within the letter and the spirit of the code and that the faculty may be confident that no embarrassing revelations concerning the University of Oregon will appear as the conference continues its investigations.