

SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

Annual Report on Intercollegiate Athletics: AY 2007 – 2008

March 2009



**Prepared by the Director of Athletics; the Office of University Analysis, Reporting, &
Assessment; and the Associate Budget Officer**

SALISBURY UNIVERSITY
Annual Report on Intercollegiate Athletics
Academic Year 2007-2008

A. Statement from President Dudley-Eshbach:

1. *NCAA Classification.*

Salisbury University is a member of the NCAA Division III in all varsity sports. The athletics program belongs to the Capital Athletic Conference, the Eastern College Athletics Conference, the Mason/Dixon Conference, and the Atlantic Central Football Conference in the various 21 sports offered.

2. *What is the role of intercollegiate athletics at your institution?*

Salisbury University places the foremost emphasis on the overall quality of the educational experience. Consequently, the athletics program affirms academics as the highest priority in the life of student-athletes. In so doing, we seek to strengthen the integration of athletic program objectives with academic and developmental objectives.

Recognizing that students have needs and interests that transcend the scope of academic life, the University is committed to providing an intercollegiate athletics program consistent with those needs and interests. Recognizing further the positive impact of participation in athletics on individual development and consistent with the University's mission, the athletics program seeks to foster attitudes of integrity and fairness, respect for others, and dedication to goals.

Institutional control over athletics is congruent with University purposes and functions. Although the athletics program provides outstanding developmental opportunities for student-athletes, service to the entire campus community, including the student body, student participants, faculty, staff, alumni, families, and special friends endures as a primary program objective.

3. *How do you assess the success of your ICA program in fulfilling its role?*

The Vice President of Student Affairs and the Director of Athletics assess the success of the intercollegiate athletics program annually. One of the primary sources of this evaluation is gleaned through the institutional Performance Management Process (PMP). Upon reviewing the PMP evaluation forms, the Director of Athletics, in conjunction with staff members and the Vice President of Student Affairs, determine the success of the previous year's goals for the program. Concurrently, and utilizing a collegial approach, goals are established for the upcoming year. In addition, through athletic department staff meetings, a myriad of issues are addressed and evaluated. When areas for improvement are identified, there is a collaborative effort between staff and administration to address important issues. Over the years, the staff has worked

concertedly to contend with issues pertaining to facilities management, staffing, sportsmanship, and hazing.

All student-athletes complete an end-of-season evaluation relative to their experience in the athletics program over the previous season, which are reviewed subsequently by the head coach and the Director of Athletics. These assessments provide the Director of Athletics and the coaching staff one tool by which to determine, from the student-athletes' perspectives, the strengths and weaknesses of the athletics program. If consistent areas of concern are identified, the Director of Athletics and the staff develop strategies by which to improve. We also assess our program in comparison to our competition within the conference and nation. Two of the measures we have used for this purpose are the conference all-sports award and the national NACDA Director's Cup. Finally, every five years an institutional committee completes the NCAA self-study of the entire athletics program. Our most recent self-study was completed in 2006.

4. *To whom does the director of intercollegiate athletics report and why?*

The Director of Athletics reports to the Vice President of Student Affairs. The intercollegiate athletics program is vital to the educational support initiatives of the University, and as such, reports to an executive officer of the University. It is considered of equal educational importance to the other programs housed within our student affairs division.

5. *What are your expectations for the director of intercollegiate athletics and the coaching staff? How well are those expectations being fulfilled?*

It is our expectation that members of our athletics staff serve as professional, first-class, educational representatives of our institution and athletics program. Furthermore, we expect they will successfully fulfill all of the duties as outlined in their job descriptions. The Director of Athletics is responsible for the day-to-day supervision of the athletics program, which includes personnel management, policies and planning, rules compliance, and budget management. The coaching staff is responsible for recruiting, teaching, day-to-day oversight of their program(s), rules compliance, and overall educational development of student-athletes. The athletics staff continues to meet our expectations with distinction.

6. *Who has voting authority at NCAA meetings? If the president is not present and does not vote in person, what safeguards exist to assure that the president's views are accurately represented?*

The Director of Athletics or the Vice President of Student Affairs represents Salisbury University at the NCAA convention, exercising voting privileges on behalf of the institution. Prior to the convention and with a spirit spawned through shared governance, the Director discusses the issues with the University Administration, athletics department staff, and the student-athlete advisory committee. The president

remains the supreme authority regarding the University's position on NCAA issues and is regularly consulted and apprised of the issues.

- 7. Please describe any special concerns, issues, or problems related to your institution's intercollegiate athletics program over the reporting period. Please include special actions taken. Additions or deletions of particular sports, changes in conference or division, NCAA investigations, and NCAA infractions must be included in this section. Also, please feel free to provide editorial comments on the data submitted in this report, as you deem appropriate.***

Given the growth of enrollment and sports opportunities at Salisbury University over the past twenty years, there remains a critical and continuing need to increase the amount of indoor athletic, physical education, and recreational space. As identified in several previous reports and by our facilities master plan consultants, the current Maggs Physical Activities Center is no longer capable of fully accommodating the needs of University students. Maggs Center opened its doors in 1977 when Salisbury University enrolled 4,299 students. By fall 2008, enrollment increased to 7,868, with 7,281 undergraduate students. Although the building was designed with growth in mind, its academic and athletic maximum service capacity was intended for a student enrollment of approximately 5,000. Since the same physical activities spaces are utilized for athletics, physical education, and recreation, the demand on, usage, and wear and tear of these facilities have been and continue to be greatly accelerated. With design capacity exceeded by 40%, a factor which poses increasing safety concerns, there is growing deterioration of existing athletics and physical education facilities that warrant expedited capital improvement funding.

As a result of the increasing stress on Maggs Physical Activities Center, the Salisbury University Foundation purchased a local Fitness and Racquetball facility adjacent to East Campus in the summer of 2008. This is a 15,034 square foot fitness facility. While the facility does not serve an athletics function, it has been a tremendous asset for our recreational student. Maggs Physical Activities Center continues to be highly utilized and the new facility has expanded fitness opportunities for our general students, particularly those who live in close proximity to the new fitness center.

Additionally, annual fixed costs which are necessary to operate a successful athletics program continue to increase. These costs include the salaries and benefits of all professional coaching and athletics support staff; facilities and utilities maintenance; transportation, lodging, meals, and insurance for teams and coaching staff; and cost of providing competition officials, to name a few. This has placed significant stress on the athletics budget which has been unable to grow in proportion to spiraling costs, enrollment demand, and student participation. With the 2008-09 academic year there was an increase in the athletic fee which was very beneficial in assisting with the above listed financial commitments. We have requested and are hopeful there will be another increase for the upcoming fiscal so we will be able to meet our commitments and goals for our athletics program.

B. Admissions

Admission to Salisbury University is granted to those applicants whose academic qualifications give promise of success in college. The evaluation of an applicant's chances for academic success is the responsibility of the Admission's office, which considers, among other criteria, an applicant's high school (or college) academic record, leadership and extra-curricular activities, scores on standardized tests, an essay, and the recommendations of the high school principal or guidance counselors.

Typically, successful candidates for admission to Salisbury University will have demonstrated strong college potential by earning above average grades in a college preparatory academic program, scoring above the national average on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, and participating in extra-curricular activities.

No distinctions in the admissions process are made for or between student-athletes, nor are exceptions made in the offers of admission to student-athletes or any other student. When utilizing average SAT scores and high school GPA scores to compare entering freshmen by gender, the data reveal no statistically significant difference between those who participate in athletics and those who do not. Moreover, despite the additional demands of participating in intercollegiate sports, entering freshman student-athletes complete more credit hours, earn slightly higher grades, and maintain a higher percentage in good-standing than do their freshman counterparts who choose not to participate in athletics.

Table B provides the admissions data by sport and gender for the fall 2007 cohort. The University does not have special admissions criteria that apply for student-athletes.

C. Graduation Rates

Tables C1, C2, and C3 describe the graduation rates by sport and gender for the 1999, 2000, and 2001 fall cohorts, respectively. The University does not have special admissions criteria that apply for student-athletes.

The graduation rates of Salisbury University students and student-athletes are a tribute to our outstanding academic success on multiple levels. Our students are among the best from across the country. In fact, SU has the highest four, five, and six-year graduation rates of all the comprehensive universities in the entire University System. Perhaps most importantly, SU students have the fastest time-to-degree of any students in the USM. Finally, as significant as those statistics are, our student-athletes graduate at rates that exceed those of the entire student body.

D. Fiscal Matters

- (1) Revenue by sources, Table D1 is included.
- (2) Expenditures by expense categories, Table D2 is included.

(3-6) Athletic Fees

The athletic fee was \$170 per semester for FY 2008. The fee is mandatory for all full-time undergraduate students and is the funding source upon which the entire SU intercollegiate athletics program is structured. Additionally, the athletic fee is part of the cost structure that allows students access to athletic facilities (i.e., intramural fields, pool, nautilus and gym) and free admission to all of our regular season home athletic contests.

Any requests for change in rate for the fee are included annually as a part of the University's Schedule of Tuition & Mandatory Fees presented to the USM. The Vice President of Student Affairs, Athletic Director, and the Budget Office review the fee on an annual basis and discuss the merits of any potential rate change. For FY 2008 the fee represented 20.69% of the total mandatory fees for full-time students.

(7) Fund Balances

	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>FY 2007</u>	<u>FY 2008</u>
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 625,028	\$1,058,919	\$1,685,621
Ending Fund Balance	\$1,058,919	\$1,685,621	\$ 527,803