

Professor serves as faculty athletic rep

By Lauren Sieh
Staff reporter

Ed Loeb, professor of mathematics, has been Southwestern College's faculty athletic representative for the past nine years.

As the faculty athletic representative, Loeb is the bridge between the athletic and academic sides of the college. One part of Loeb's role is to make sure that Southwestern's athletic program is operating within the policies and bylaws of the NAIA. The second part is to certify that all student athletes have met the conditions for eligibility to be able to participate in their sports.

Amanda McKimson, registrar, plays a key role in certifying student athletes' eligibility. McKimson said that she helps Loeb certify that student athletes and the college are abiding by the NAIA policies and bylaws.

Loeb said, "There are a number of different policies and procedures that dictate when a student athlete can and cannot be

ineligible for participation. The simplest way of thinking about it is in order for a student athlete to be eligible to participate, they have to pass, on average, 24 credit hours every year in order to maintain their eligibility. After they have become a junior or they have participated for two years, they also have to have at least a 2.0 GPA."

When a student athlete is ineligible, Loeb will contact the coach of the student athlete to inform them.

"When a student athlete finds out they are ineligible, obviously their first question is 'why'? Then it is an issue of 'Okay, well how do I become eligible?' That often times involves a conversation where I have to educate them a little bit on the policies and procedures for eligibility. Sort of walk them through and say, 'This is the kind of things you need to be doing in order to become eligible for the next season.'"

Every eligibility case is different. The time spent being ineligible is mostly up to the student. The faculty athletic represen-



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tative informs the student, coaches and college that the student is ineligible.

However, it is up to the student to make a decision whether to improve their ineligibility or not. In most cases, a student athlete will spend the time it takes to be eligible. This usually takes a semester.

Mike McCoy, athletic director, said, "First, it's them understanding that they are ineligible. It's no surprise. They know they are messing up, normally. If they don't go to class or are not doing things the right way, it is not a surprise to them. Even if it's not, we still have to make sure they know how to get back on their feet. So then, we tell them what they need do as far as retaking a class."

With the addition of retaking classes, ineligible students need to take more classes than they usually would to prevent falling behind in their academic plan. Some students decide to take classes during the summer or over winter break to stay on track.

The consequences of an ineligible athlete competing for the college is severe. If the ineligible student competes in a contest, game or tournament, the college is required to forfeit.

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