Annual Report of the Athletic Board 1967-68

By action of the Regents, control over Intercollegiate Athletics has been delegated to the UWM Faculty. The Athletic Board is the Faculty's instrument in exercising this control. As a result of continuing reduction in available physical facilities, restrictive financing and encroachment upon areas of Faculty authority by the Administration, it is a moot question whether Faculty control of athletics exists at UWM at this time, or whether it has been replaced by control and direction of the University Administration.

Each year interest in Intercollegiate Athletics at UWM has continued to rise. Interest in intramurals is also increasing. It is ironic that at a time of increasing student interest, there has been an actual decrease in the amount of space available for these activities. If the deficiency of adequate facilities continues, it is possible that intercollegiate athletics and intramurals may cease to exist on this campus. During 1967-68, as in each of the past five years, the Athletic Board has brought this critical situation to the attention of the Administration. As yet, no constructive action has been taken to relieve the pressing need for space.

The Athletic Grant-in-Aid program has been successfully launched with a fund drive which elicited strong public support. The Board feels that Milwaukee has demonstrated its interest in and support of UWM athletics in the most tangible way possible.

The possibilities of a new conference of urban universities or affiliation with an existing conference continue to be explored. With this in mind, football and basketball schedules are being planned to include schools likely to become members of such a conference. To further facilitate the possibilities of conference affiliation, we have modified various policies. For example, the "freshman rule" has been instituted in basketball and is under consideration in football.

A change in administration practices in the financing of Intercollegiate Athletics poses serious problems for the 1968-69 program. These changes were instituted without consultation with the Athletic Board. In addition, the Board's traditional authority over merit increases to Athletic Faculty was usurped. These are but two indications leading to this Board's deep concern whether control of the Intercollegiate Athletic program still resides in the UWM Faculty.

Athletic Board

G. Goundie
R. John, Chairman
M. Maksud
H. Rose
W. Trattner
H. Kluge, ex-officio