Assessment Plan Update
Athletics Department
September 23, 2005

Since the original submission of the assessment plan for athletics (January 16, 2004), much has transpired in our department. Although some elements can be connected to the objectives outlined in January 04, other pursuits were initiated on March 5, 2004, the date I submitted a significant scholarship proposal to the college administration. As a result of that proposal, the President commissioned a special athletic task force (ATF), and our departmental energies have been specifically focused on this endeavor. The charge to the ATF was to explore the following three questions:

1) What principles should guide our decision making about institutional financial support for athletics?
   - Or -
   What is our goal for athletics at Westmont?
   - Or -
   How much is enough?

2) Of the various options for having “Enough,” which is the most consistent with our institutional goals?

3) What institutional arrangements are most likely to result in our achieving our Fundraising goals?

The ATF met consistently throughout the year and wrestled with these very important questions. At the conclusion of ATF deliberations, a draft recommendation was presented to the President on April 28, 2005. From that point forward, the ATF work was complete and a smaller institutional group forged ahead, dissecting the recommendation document, executing additional research, and continuing the dialogue related to the place of athletics at Westmont College. On September 6, 2005, the final response from the President was submitted to the ATF. Much can be said about the ATF process and the impact it has had on our department. As it relates to assessment, we have asked ourselves often, “What kind of athletic department do we want to be?” It has also caused me to re-think the original objectives of the assessment plan (Pre and post essay and interviews with each student/athlete, video documentation of the Golden Eagle Student/Athlete Banquet, Alumni surveys) and to consider their validity in light of this yearlong discussion.

This process, which is still ongoing, has taken tremendous energy. As a result, the objectives set forth in the original assessment plan have not yet been fully completed. We have, however, made some progress in two of the three objective areas identified. For the first time, we now have video documentation of the Golden Eagle Student/Athlete award banquet. I will submit this in January as supporting material. Secondly, we are distributing a survey to our coaching staff, to be given to current athletes, pertaining to the role of coaches in guiding the spiritual formation of student/athletes. This survey will be completed by mid-October and the results included in the January report.