# Benchmarking the BIG EAST Conference

## How does DePaul University compare to the existing practices within University student-athlete tutoring programs and student-athlete development programs?

## Methodology

- An internally-designed questionnaire was sent to BIG EAST institutions' academic and student development departments.

- Questionnaires were distributed via a listserv and individual emails; however, participants could share written responses or complete a phone interview.

- Descriptive statistics were generated from raw data to create ratios of student-athletes to available resources (e.g., staff, tutors, useable space) to provide useful comparisons between institutions.

## Demographics

- 12 staff from student-athlete academic services and student-athlete development programs across all 10 athletic departments within the BIG EAST Conference completed questionnaires.

- Staff respondents had partial or complete oversight of either the student-athlete tutoring program or the student-athlete development program for their respective school's athletic department.

## Key Findings

- The mean of staff across BIG EAST student-athlete tutoring programs included 6.3 total staff and 3.6 full-time staff with DePaul employing 6 total staff of which 3 are full-time staff.

- The mean ratio of usable space per student-athlete in athletic academic offices was 7.13 square feet per athlete with DePaul's ratio being 5.58 square feet per student athlete.

- Of the BIG EAST programs, DePaul is the only institution that provides drop-in tutoring and team-specific tutors or academic assistants; however, DePaul is similar to a few other institutions that do not use tutor scheduling and tracking/feedback software or have a student-athlete development budget.

- Emerging trends identified among BIG EAST schools (not including DePaul) include implementing certificate and rewards programs, internship programs and leadership programs for athletes; however, DePaul is one of two schools that offered credit for student-athlete only classes.

## Plan of Action

- Advocate for and explore means of adding space for tutoring and student-athlete development events in either the newly constructed Sullivan Athletic Center space or existing university space on the Lincoln Park campus.

- Request an additional full-time staff member with advising and program facilitation responsibilities, reorganize office responsibilities to give the student-athlete development coordinator more time to work on student-athlete development programming and advocate for increased tutor salaries and hiring contracted non-student tutors.

- Explore tutor tracking software.

- Create or fund a separate student-athlete development budget through the Athletics existing budget, NCAA Student-Athlete Opportunity fund or a university donor.

### Ratio of Student-Athletes to Tutoring Staff

■ DePaul  ■ BIG EAST Institutions

| Value |
|---|
| 27.27 |
| 35.83 |
| 37.50 |
| 50.00 |
| 60.00 |
| 65.00 |
| 66.67 |
| 83.33 |
| 93.75 |
| 250.00 |