

LARRY SCOTT*

Pac-12 Commissioner's Tribute to Jim O'Fallon¹

On behalf of everyone at the Pac-12, I wanted to share a few words about Jim and celebrate the impact he had on all of us. We join you all in grieving his loss and have spent the last day reflecting on his legacy and his staunch commitment to Oregon student-athletes and the conference.

The instrumental role Jim played for the conference as Oregon FAR² between 1990 and 2015 cannot be overstated. Throughout his tenure, he served as President of the Pac-12 Council three different times and represented us on the NCAA Committee on Infractions. But the real story is how Jim consistently represented himself, Oregon, and the Pac-12 in his thoughtful advocacy of our mission.

Jim was passionate about student-athletes and what athletics can do for universities, and he pushed all of us. On issues like our intra-conference transfer policy and many others, he challenged us to consider all perspectives, from student-athletes and their welfare, to coaches, to fans. He grasped what could and could not be accomplished and often would argue a certain viewpoint during discussions even if he didn't agree with that view, just to spur conversation and get the best out of our group. This thoughtfulness and balance is his true legacy.

Personally for me, Jim was a great counselor as I became Commissioner in 2009. He was extremely generous with his time and advice, and through these early discussions, I was able to quickly find a great appreciation for the role of FARs on the Pac-12 Council and in

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¹ Unedited E-mail from Larry Scott, Pac-12 Commissioner to the Pac-12 Council, following Jim O'Fallon's passing.

² Faculty Athletic Representative.

our athletics departments. He was a trusted voice on student-athlete welfare over the last several years, and he helped us reach consensus on policies that reinforced the primacy of student-athletes' academic pursuits. I appreciated his leadership nationally on key issues on behalf of the conference, and enjoyed watching him advocate for student-athletes in the Pac-12 and beyond.

We will all miss Jim, and we at the Pac-12 have all of you, his former colleagues and friends, in our thoughts as well.