

**2006-2007 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
ATHLETIC COUNCIL
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST**

**Presented at the
669th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
February 14, 2008**

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Representing the Faculty

**Carol Barr (Co-Chair)
M.J. Peterson (Co-Chair)
John Brigham
Frank Lattuca (until Jan. 2007)
W. Brian O'Connor
Patricia Vittum
Rod Warnick (Secretary)
Ernest Washington**

Representing the Alumni

**Robert Goodhue
George Richason
Ed Ward**

Representing the Students

**Laurice Bryant-Guillory (Fall semester)
Josh Duboff
Alix Garnier (Spring semester)
Tara Lindros**

Ex-Officio Members

**Ernest May (voting, Faculty Senate)
John McCutcheon (non-voting, Director of Athletics)
Steve Upton (voting, University Advancement designee)
Glenn Wong (voting, NCAA Faculty Representative)**

Submitted January 2008

I. ATHLETIC COUNCIL OVERVIEW

According to Section 4: paragraph 5-4-1 of the Bylaws of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst's Faculty Senate (May, 2004), The Athletic Council ...

“shall implement the “Statement of Athletic Policy” adopted by the Board of Trustees on February 14, 1957, and any resolution which the board may adopt thereafter. Consistent with present policies on admissions and academic standards, the Intercollegiate Athletic Program shall be developed to a point where it is representative of the best efforts of the University, with aims and ideals of achievement comparable to those expected of the academic departments. This development shall proceed in accord with policies and regulations of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and all athletic conferences in which the University maintains membership. The Intramural Athletic Program shall be staffed and equipped to meet the needs of all students who desire to participate, and the University shall encourage participation through a varied program including sports with carry-over value for life after graduation. All athletic accounts shall be open to review by the President of the Student Government Association or a designee. This Council shall submit an annual report both to the Faculty Senate and the Student Government Association, which shall include a detailed breakdown of all athletic program budgets.

A. Introduction. In accordance with its mission, The Athletic Council (hereafter the Council) held several regularly scheduled meetings during the academic year 2006-07. Five of the six subcommittees (Finance; Facilities; Compliance; Academics; and Equity, Minority Opportunities and Student-Athlete Welfare) met to focus on issues within their purview. The Visions Subcommittee was not active during the 2006-07 academic year. A summary of each of the subcommittee reports appears within this report.

The Council's meetings were organized around an agenda that included but was not limited to (1) brief reports from representatives of the Athletic Department, (2) discussion of items of current interest to the Council, (3) reports from the five active sub-committees, (4) reports from invited guests, and (5) reports from coaches. Last year's Athletic Department representatives included John McCutcheon (Director of Athletics), Thor Bjorn (Senior Associate Athletic Director), Elaine Sortino (Associate Athletic Director and Senior Women's Administrator), Tricia Turley (Associate Athletic Director for Compliance), Jaime Seguin (Associate Athletic Director/Business and Personnel), Joan Hopkins (Associate Athletic Director for Academic Support Services), JoAnne Maloney (Assistant Director of Academic Services/Learning Specialist), Todd McDonald (Assistant Athletic Director for Marketing), Caren Weiner (Director, Sports Nutrition), and Dan Markowski (Assistant Athletic Director for Facilities and Operations).

Last year's invited guests included Cleve Carens (Project Manager for the Recreation Center), Sylvia Langford (Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs), Deputy Chief Patrick Archbald (Campus Police), Lieutenant Tommy O'Donnell (Campus Police), Robin Harris (Director of Health Enhancement), and Ed Rubin (athletic supporter known as the “Sign Man”).

The Council heard from the following coaches last year: Don Brown (Football), Greg Canella (Men's Lacrosse), Justine Sowry (Field Hockey), Alexis Venechanos (Women's Lacrosse), and Russ Yarworth (Men's Swimming).

In addition to issues that faced the Council on an on-going basis, these topics dominated the agenda over 2006-07:

1. The Recreation Center project.
2. NCAA Certification of the Athletic Department.
3. Gender and Minority Equity and Opportunity within the Athletic Department.
4. Crowd Accommodations and Safety Issues at Football Games

B. Council Structure. The membership list of the Council included eight faculty members (appointed by the Faculty Senate), three members appointed by the Alumni Association, four ex-officio members (Director of Athletics, NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, and a designee from the office of the Vice Chancellor for University Advancement) and four student members. The full roster of the Athletic Council appears on the cover page of this document. Each member of the Athletic Council is also appointed to one of six (6) subcommittees. These appointments are listed in this report.

C. Attendance Records. Attendance records for the 2006-07 year (meetings attended/meetings eligible as member) for each member of the Council:

Faculty, Alumni, and Ex-Officio

Barr	7/8	Richason	8/8
Brigham	5/8	Upton	6/8
Goodhue	5/8	Vittum.....	5/8
Lattuca	3/4	Ward	7/8
May	3/8	Warnick	8/8
McCutcheon	7/8	Washington.....	6/8
O'Connor	8/8	Wong.....	7/8
Peterson.....	8/8		

Students

Bryant-Guillory	1/1
Duboff	7/8
Lindros.....	1/2
Garnier.....	3/3

D. Meetings Schedule – 2006-2007 Academic Year. Council meetings took place on:

Friday, September 22, 2006; Friday, October 27; Friday, November 17; Friday December 22; Friday, February 2, 2007; Friday, March 2; Friday, April 6; and Friday, May 4.

II. OUTSTANDING ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 2006-07

The UMass Athletic teams, student-athletes and coaches experienced much success both on and off the athletic fields during 2006-07. In the Fall 2006 semester, 99 student-athletes were named to the A-10 Commissioners Honor Role, with 102 student-athletes receiving this recognition for the Spring 2007 semester. To be named to this Academic Honor Role the student-athlete needs to have achieved a 3.5 GPA or better for the semester.

At the Senior Athletes banquet in May 2007, Rowing's Abby Lively and Baseball's Bill Rankin won the academic honors among all UMass student-athletes. Athlete of the Year honors went to Stephane Lasme from Men's Basketball and Michele Spiess from the Women's Tennis team.

Additional athletic team successes during the 2006-07 year include teams competing in their respective NCAA National Championship Tournaments: the Football and Men's Lacrosse teams reaching the NCAA National Finals, the Men's Hockey team competing in the NCAA quarterfinals, the Softball Team making it to their NCAA post-season tournament, and the women's cross country and women divers competing in NCAA regional competitions. A number of teams received athletic conference tournament and season accolades including A-10 conference championships in women's rowing, softball, football, men's basketball, and men's swimming and diving.

Women's skier Eliza Hawkins won the overall title at the U.S. Collegiate Ski Association Championships qualifying her for participation in the U.S. Nationals. Football players James Ihedigbo and Alex Miller were named to the Associated Press First Team All-Americans while Steve Baylark was named to the Second Team. Men's Swim Coach Russ Yarworth was inducted into the Collegiate Water Polo Association Hall of Fame while Men's Hockey Coach Don "Toot" Cahoon was named New England Hockey Writers Coach of the Year.

III. OVERVIEW OF THE ATHLETIC COUNCIL'S 2006-07 ACTIVITIES

The Athletic Council is responsible for making recommendations on policy and providing advice on general operations of the Department of Athletics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The Department of Athletics has long been visible regionally and nationally, achieving success both in the classroom and on the playing fields. The University maintains its long tradition of balance between academics and athletics.

During the 2006-07 year, the Athletic Council continued our focus on the Recreation Center. At our December, 2006 meeting Cleve Carens, from Facilities and Campus Planning, made a presentation to the Council that included components for the Recreation Center floor plan, sight locations, exercise and fitness priorities, as well as a review of budget statistics. On November 2, 2007, Athletic Council members were invited to the groundbreaking ceremonies of the Recreation Center.

During September, 2006, the NCAA Certification site visit took place. This is a process conducted once every ten years in which the Athletic Department is reviewed by the NCAA in the areas of Academics, Compliance, and Equity and Student-Athlete Welfare. The Athletic Council was very involved in the process with members serving as Chairs of the three Sub-Committees (listed above). The Athletic Department received a Certification with No Conditions assessment by the NCAA Committee on Athletics Certification.

The Athletic Council received its annual report from the Director of Athletics regarding Minority Issues and Opportunities. The Director of Athletics has been charged with reporting annually to the Council on the representation, opportunities, and support services provided by the department to minority student-athletes, as well as the attention given to the representation in coaching and administrative positions. In the fall of 2006, all active full and part-time coaches attended a two session Diversity Awareness workshop conducted by the Workplace for Learning and Development. The Athletic Health Enhancement Program (AHEP) continued to offer mentoring to student-athletes of color and diversity awareness training to members of the department. The Athletic Department also remains committed in its effort to encourage and recruit minority applicants for entry level coaching and administrative positions pursuing appropriate search outlets and recruitment outreach activities in this regard.

After hearing concerns regarding crowd accommodation and safety issues following the sold out NCAA football playoff game at McGuirk Stadium with the University of New Hampshire, the Athletic Council invited Deputy Chief Patrick Archbald and Lieutenant Tommy O'Donnell to our February, 2007 meeting. At this meeting the Athletic Department and the Campus Police Department reported that this was a new level of crowd control that they had not faced in over 20 years and was by far the largest event at the stadium during the last two decades. The Athletic Department had also put in place this year additional security services to provide both better services and improved crowd control for future events. The Council was pleased with the quick response by the Athletic Department and the Campus Police Department to this issue.

The following are the reports from the Athletic Council Sub-Committees.

IV. ATHLETIC COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Athletic Council has six sub-committees, with five to eight members appointed (by the Co-chairs) to each. In addition, at least one member of the Department of Athletics is assigned (by the Director of Athletics) to work directly with each sub-committee. Each of these department liaisons has been very cooperative and provided all information that was requested, as well as unsolicited information that could further enhance understanding of the items under discussion. Each sub-committee meets, on average, once per semester.

A. Academics

Role of the Academics Sub-Committee: The Academics Sub-Committee oversees the academic performance of team members. This includes team graduation rates, team GPA, and academic progress. The Academic Sub-Committee also addresses issues pertinent to the academic performance and support provided to student-athletes.

In March, the Subcommittee Chair, John Brigham, toured the academic support services facility and received an overview of the operation from Director Joan Hopkins who oversees six full time counselors with 125 student athletes each. Tutoring is available in every subject. Every freshman meets with a counselor once a week. 180 of the 572 student-athletes are part of the MASS (Making Athletes Successful Students) program. They meet once or twice a week with a counselor.

Dual advising is going well and in the Fall of 2006 the Director reported on the monitoring of Independent Studies. Joanne Maloney, the Learning Disability coordinator, reported to the Athletic Council in the Fall of 2006. The Athletic Department funds testing for learning disabilities.

The most significant contact between Academic Services and the faculty is through the Progress Reports, which are solicited during the semester. Academic Services is testing electronic submission of mid-semester progress reports and considering whether to send Progress Reports out for high-risk students only or for all student-athletes.

Student-athletes are represented in 48 of the 86 degree programs at the University. The NCAA requires student-athletes to declare their majors by their junior year. Student-athlete graduation rates are 6% higher than the student body as a whole (66% for all students compared to 72% for student-athletes when using a six-year analysis).

In December of 2006, John Brigham and Joan Hopkins met with Susan Whitbourne, Director of the Office of National Scholarship Advising in Commonwealth College to discuss support for student-athletes in competition for national scholarships and post-graduate fellowships. Because of its scholarships and the

opportunity to compete in athletics, UMass student-athletes are among the most distinguished students at the University and include nominees for the Truman, Rhodes, Marshall and Fulbright academic scholarships.

B. Compliance

Role of the Compliance Sub-Committee: The Compliance Sub-Committee reviews the Department of Athletics' efforts to comply with NCAA regulations and mandates. The Sub-Committee meets near the end of each semester to review the functions of the Athletic Department Compliance Office. Each member of each coaching staff must complete an annual exam that tests knowledge of recruiting regulations, along with other NCAA-mandated rules. A member of the Compliance Office and the Faculty Athletics Representative or a designee proctors this exam. The Compliance Office meets regularly with the coaching staff of all sports to discuss and review NCAA legislation and compliance activities.

Representatives from the Athletic Department, including Associate Athletic Director for Compliance Trish Turley, met with the Compliance Sub-Committee to provide an update on the Special Assistance Fund (a fund that is used to assist student-athletes with financial need with financial assistance to cover such items as health insurance and clothing); Initial eligibility or Extension waivers for student-athletes; and Medical Hardship waivers for student-athletes. Two minor athletic violations were reported to the NCAA with both student-athletes being reinstated with the NCAA accepting the institutional action. The Compliance athletic staff meet with the coaches monthly to review pertinent compliance issues. The Compliance Sub-committee also heard from Tricia Turley regarding newly adopted, defeated and deferred legislation from the January 2007 NCAA Convention. The Compliance Office Newsletters that are sent to the athletic department coaches and athletic staff were also shared with the Compliance Sub-Committee.

Update on FAR Duties and Progress Report

Glenn Wong (Faculty - Sport Management) provided an update on the progress of the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) position and the Transfer Appeals Committee. There was one appeal handled over the past year. Council members Carol Barr and Rod Warnick served on the committee as faculty representatives.

An extensive update on the FAR role in the A10 Conference was also provided. The A10 has been impacted by the addition of two conference schools from Conference USA – St. Louis and UNC-Charlotte and these schools have pushed for more involvement of the FARs. This has resulted in the FARs impact on the conference operations in three distinct ways: 1) FAR representation and selection for NCAA national committees; 2) FARs attendance and participation in regular A10 meetings; and, 3) FARs representation on A10 committees.

C. Equity, Minority Opportunities and Student-Athlete Welfare

Role of the Equity, Minority Opportunities and Student-Athlete Welfare Sub-Committee: The sub-committee is responsible for monitoring and reporting on Title IX compliance, gender issues, minority issues, and student-athlete welfare within the Athletic Department.

The Equity and Student Athlete Welfare Sub-committee met with Elaine Sortino on Wednesday, 18 April. Present were: Carol Barr, Josh Duboff, Pat Vittum, and Ernie Washington.

What became clear in our meeting was that the Department of Athletics maintains many different records of their student-athletes, mandated by several different agencies or entities. One such set of records is “roster management numbers”, which indicate how many athletes a coach is expected to maintain on the roster

(“roster management”), how many are actually on the roster on the first date of competition, and the total on each roster including those who have medical exceptions or have exhausted their eligibility. In each of the categories, the participation numbers for all sports generally ranged from 51% male – 49% female to 52% male – 48% female.

According to numbers provided by the department’s Compliance director, Carol Ford, there were 9,480 males (51%) and 9,149 females (49%) enrolled at the University of Massachusetts in Fall 2006. So according to the roster management table, the Department of Athletics gender equity numbers for participation, based on the roster management records, are virtually in compliance with Title IX.

Sortino presented additional information that is generated by the Department of Athletics each year regarding ethnicity of student-athletes. The data are collected for all student-athletes and for scholarship athletes only. “No doubles” means that each individual is only counted once, even if that student-athlete participates in more than one sport. The table (attached) indicates that 25% of the total student-athletes are classified as “minorities” (defined as non-white and/or non-citizens of the United States), and over 30% of the student-athletes on scholarship are classified as “minorities”.

This table also provides information on gender distribution that differs slightly from the “roster management” numbers. According to this table, 53.3% of all student-athletes were male and 46.6% were female. Further review of the table indicates that 56.4% of the student-athletes who were on athletic scholarship were male, while 43.6% were female. These numbers diverge slightly from the “target” of having participation numbers match enrollment numbers of the full student body.

Another way that gender equity can be measured is by allocation of scholarships. According to numbers provided by Carol Ford, the actual scholarship dollars authorized for 2006-2007 were \$2,616,027 to male student-athletes and \$2,237,615 to female student-athletes. This is roughly a 54:46 ratio. The actual expenditures were \$2,650,958 for males (58%) and \$1,955,965 for females (42%), which is clearly less “equitable” than the participation numbers. According to Sortino, the projected authorized allocations for 2007-2008 should be closer to the target, in which percentages would more closely reflect the university student enrollment.

With regard to equity in the department staff, there has been a tremendous improvement in the number of women in middle management positions in the past five years. Four of 10 senior staff members now are women.

There have been five coaching changes since John McCutcheon became the Director of Athletics. There were no ethnic minority applicants in women’s lacrosse, field hockey, or skiing. The sub-committee discussed the challenge the department faces because there often is a limited pool of qualified candidates, particularly in sports like lacrosse or field hockey. Sortino pointed out that the NCAA is developing a minority internship program that provides entry level opportunities for individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds, and that these interns are beginning to enter the job market, so the hope is that candidate pools will continue to increase in size and diversity as subsequent positions become available.

The Department recently underwent recertification with the NCAA, and several initiatives have been suggested that would ultimately increase staff and athlete diversity within the Department. In addition the department is in the process of completing a diversity training workshop for the entire coaching staff.

For several years the Department has conducted exit interviews with student-athletes who have exhausted their eligibility. Our staff is persistent and normally achieves a 65 % response rate, far exceeding that of many of our sister institutions. Sortino reported that the students generally are reflecting great satisfaction

with their experience at the University of Massachusetts. In past years some athletes felt their sport did not receive the same level of “support” as other sports, but that sentiment appears to be on the decline. In addition access to the weight room has improved, and is reflected by the marked downturn in complaints. She added that the Adidas contract has resulted in every team receiving good equipment and footwear.

Finally Sortino noted that Joan Hopkins, hired in August 2006 to oversee the Student Athlete Academic Support program, has been a tremendous asset. She came to us from Eastern Kentucky, where she had 20 years of experience. Sortino also indicated that the level of (financial) support to provide tutors is good.

D. Facilities

Role of the Facilities Sub-Committee: The Sub-Committee is responsible for reviewing the condition of the various facilities, including all playing fields.

The new football field turf was installed in McGuirk Stadium. The cost of this project was \$1.2 million and was paid for through private funding and football guarantee money. The football stadium was also repainted and power washed.

Renovations occurred with Garber Field with a replacement of the turf at a cost of \$2.2 million. The renovations were funded through state money.

The tennis courts behind the Mullins Center were redone at a cost of \$1.7 million.

The women’s lacrosse and tennis team offices were updated in Boyden.

Construction on the University’s Heating Plant that impacted traffic around the Mullins Center was continuing with an anticipated completion date of March 2008.

The Mullins Center plaza was also under construction.

Plans are being finalized for a new student recreation center. The cost of the center will be \$50,000,000. The project will be located across from the Mullins Center where the old barn sits. The center will contain open court space, weight lifting space, a jogging track, aerobic machines and other features. The building will be designed to allow for a pool to be added at a later date. The completion of the new center will free up space in Boyden for other uses.

E. Finance, Development, and Tickets

Role of the Finance, Development, and Tickets Sub-Committee: This Sub-Committee reviews the distribution of funds from some of the sources of funding to the department (including state funds, trust funds, student activity fees, and advancement funds). This sub-committee also monitors the ticket distribution policies and practices. The obligation of this sub-committee is to correlate programs and financing, providing advice or recommendations as appropriate.

The Finance, Development, and Tickets Sub-Committee reviews the distribution of funds from sources of funding to the department (including state funds, trust funds, student activity fees, and advancement funds). This sub-committee also monitors the ticket distribution policies and practices. The overall obligation of this sub-committee is to correlate programs and financing, providing advice or recommendations as appropriate.

The relationship between programs and financing of same was further stabilized during this 2006-07 academic year. Outstanding performance in some of the more visible programs, particularly I-AA football, men's Atlantic-10 basketball, men's Hockey East, and Atlantic-10 softball, resulted in enhanced ticket income over preliminary projections. This was offset in some measure by a considerable increase in travel and other team expenses. Enhanced interest in the Athletic Program by alumni and friends, matching other university academic and research accomplishments, will almost certainly enhance financial contribution to our programs.

The FY07 budget picture for 2006-07 is portrayed in the attachment. Ms. Seguin has provided all of the information the subcommittee requested, and with explanation as necessary. The cooperation of the Athletic Administration has been commendable.

F. Visions

Role of the Visions Sub-Committee: This sub-committee reviews the Strategic Plan of the Athletic Department providing suggestions and feedback as appropriate.

The Visions Sub-Committee was not active during the 2006-07 academic year, but has been re-activated for 2007-08.

V. ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Pursuant to our charge as a Council, the Athletic Department FY07 budget is provided on the next page. As can be seen, the Athletic Department operated in the black for the third straight year.

Sen. Doc. No. 08-016

		<i>FY07 Budget</i>	<i>Percentage of Overall Budget</i>
Revenue			
	State and University Subsidy	\$ 8,305,369.24	42%
	Student Fees	\$ 6,950,069.00	35%
	Ticket and Guarantee Revenue	\$ 1,355,500.00	7%
	Marketing Corporate, TV, and Radio Sponsorship	\$ 850,000.00	4%
	Conference and NCAA Distribution	\$ 756,091.41	4%
	Facility Rental Income and Miscellaneous	\$ 150,000.00	1%
	Post Season Reimbursement and Ticket Revenue	\$ 40,000.00	0%
	UMAA Foundation Annual Drive towards scholarship *1	\$ 306,876.01	2%
	Alumni/Gift Accounts	\$ 200,000.00	1%
	Summer Camps	\$ 20,000.00	0%
	Campus Recreation	\$ 711,110.00	4%
	TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUE	\$ 19,645,015.66	100%
Expenses			
	Compensation	\$ 6,713,927.44	34%
	Scholarships *2	\$ 5,136,893.02	26%
	Sport Program Operating Budgets	\$ 3,349,645.77	17%
	Post Season Budget	\$ 160,000.00	1%
	Facilities and Game Operations	\$ 1,305,588.24	7%
	Administrative Operating Budgets	\$ 2,022,646.58	10%
	Alumni/Gift Accounts	\$ 200,000.00	1%
	Summer Camps	\$ 20,000.00	0%
	Campus Recreation Operating Budget	\$ 667,838.00	3%
	TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES	\$ 19,576,539.05	100%

*1 This only includes the portion of the annual fund drive that is allocated towards scholarships. This does not reflect the overall fundraising efforts.

*2 The following is a breakdown of scholarships

Scholarship Revenue		
	Student Fee	\$ 3,120,750.85
	Board of Higher Education Waiver	\$ 1,378,000.00
	GOF	\$ 331,266.16
	UMAA Scholarship Fund	\$ 306,876.01
	Total Revenue Allocated to Scholarships	\$ 5,136,893.02
Scholarship Expenses	Total Expenses Allocated to Scholarships	\$ 5,136,893.02

VI. OTHER ISSUES

A. Faculty Athletic Representative to the NCAA. The university continues to be fortunate to have Glenn Wong serving in the capacity of Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), a position mandated by the NCAA. Professor Wong, a sports attorney, keeps the Athletic Council and the Department of Athletics informed about the issues being discussed by FARs nationally.

B. Athletic Council Co-Chair Activities. In addition to preparing agendas and reports, the co-chairs are called upon to undertake additional duties during the course of the year. Brief highlights of each of these additional items are noted below.

1. Monthly meetings with the Athletic Director.
2. Representation at Athletic Luncheon for Honoring Academic Achievement by Student Athletes – Fall and Spring Semesters.
3. Representation on the NCAA Re-Certification process – serving as Chairs of the standing committees.
4. Preparation of Annual Reports and Presentation to Faculty Senate.
5. Participation in Chancellor, President, and Trustees meetings.

VII. SUMMARY

This report provides the “State of the Athletics Program” at the University of Massachusetts as seen through the eyes of the Athletic Council. While not a regulatory body, the Council is responsible for making recommendations on policy and providing advice on general operations of the Department of Athletics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

UMass Athletics continued its commitment to excellence, both on and off the field. As a group, UMass student-athletes shine on the playing field/court as well as in the classroom. We are proud of their accomplishments. We also acknowledge the work of the coaches who continue to produce quality teams and are recognized for their efforts in being awarded Coach of the Year honors.