

**2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**ATHLETIC COUNCIL**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST**

Presented at the  
681<sup>st</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate  
February 26, 2009

**MEMBERSHIP LIST**

**Representing the Faculty**

Carol Barr (Co-Chair)  
Rod Warnick (Co-Chair)  
John Brigham (Resigned May 2008)  
Jay Gladden  
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**Representing the Students**

Scott Dresser  
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**Ex-Officio Members**

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

Submitted February 2009

## 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 2007-08. Six subcommittees (Finance; Facilities; Compliance; and Equity, Minority Opportunities and Student-Athlete Welfare) were charged to focus on issues within their purview. The Visions and Academics Subcommittees were not active during the 2007-08 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 four active subcommittees, (4) reports from invited guests, and (5) reports from coaches and administrators/staff. Last year's Athletic Department representatives included John McCutcheon (Director of Athletics), Tim Kenney (Senior Associate Athletic Director for Advancement and Athletic Development), 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), Tammy Drummond and Matt Komer (Academic Support Services), Todd McDonald (Assistant Athletic Director for Marketing), Caren Weiner (Director, Sports Nutrition), Pierre Rouzier (Team Physician), and Dan Markowski (Assistant Athletic Director for Facilities and Operations) and the regular attendance and note-taker, Julie Sarsynski, Athletics Office Manager.

Last year's special invited guests included Chancellor Thomas Cole and Dante Milligan, Student Athlete (Men's Basketball) who both spoke to the Council at the April 2008 meeting. The Council heard from the following coaches last year: Elaine Sortino (Softball); Marnie Dacko (Women's Basketball); Sam Koch (Men's Soccer); Derek Kellogg (Men's Basketball – new head coach hire); and Justine Sowry (Field Hockey).

In addition to issues that faced the Council on an ongoing basis, these topics dominated the agenda over 2007-08:

1. The Recreation Center project and Athletic Facilities upgrades; including the dedication and groundbreaking ceremony in November 2007.
2. Registration Process of Student Athletes.
3. APR Reports and Compliance Issues.
4. Gender and Minority Equity and Opportunity within the Athletic Department.
5. Conference Realignment for Men’s Lacrosse in 2010.

**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 three 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.

**C. Attendance Records.** Attendance records for the 2007-08 year (meetings attended/meetings eligible as member) for each member of the Council:

**Faculty, Alumni, and Ex-Officio**

Barr .....	5/6	Richason .....	6/6
Brigham .....	2/6	Upton .....	4/6
Goodhue .....	4/6	Vittum.....	4/6
Gladden.....	4/6	Ward .....	6/6
May .....	2/6	Warnick .....	6/6
McCutcheon .....	3/6	Washington.....	3/6
O’Connor .....	5/6	Wong.....	4/6
Schoenadel.....	3/6		

**D. Meetings Schedule – 2007-2008 Academic Year.** Council meetings took place on:

Friday, September 14, 2007; Friday, October 19, 2007; November meeting was cancelled due to team playoffs and commitments from Athletic Department; Friday, December 14, 2007; Friday, February 15, 2008; Friday, March 21 meeting was cancelled due to Council member commitments; Friday, April 18, 2008; and Friday, May 16, 2008.

**II. OUTSTANDING ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 2007-08.**

The UMass Athletic teams, student athletes and coaches experienced much success both on and off the athletic fields during 2007-08. In the Fall 2007 semester, 107 student athletes were named to the A-10 Commissioners Honor Roll, with 80 student athletes receiving this recognition for the Spring 2008 semester. To be named to this Academic Honor Roll the student-athlete needs to have achieved a 3.5 GPA or better for the semester.

At the December 2007 Sports Luncheon, the Fall Scholar Athletes were Erin Parker (Field Hockey) and Zack Simmons (Men’s Soccer). Track and Field Team's Christina DeRosa, Men’s Skiing's Jason Small and Women’s Diving's Karen Uppercio were honored by the UMass Athletic Department as the Winter Scholar-

Athletes of the season. At the Senior Athlete's banquet in May 2008, Men's Lacrosse's Sean Krygier and Softball's Lauren Proctor were honored as the outstanding Spring scholar athletes.

In 2007, the UMass Athletic Department also honored the student athlete with the highest GPA on each team and began a new program in this Academic Year called the 400 Club. This club is sponsored by the Athletic Director for student athletes who maintain a 4.00 GPA for the semester. Fifteen (15) such student athletes were honored in 2007-2008 with this designation. The Athletic Department has also joined a new national athletic academic honor society called Chi Alpha Sigma. The Athletic Department inducted 49 juniors and seniors into it last spring. Student athletes must be of junior standing and have a 3.40 cumulative grade point average. The juniors are pinned and the seniors receive medals to wear at graduation.

Additional athletic team successes during the 2007-08 year include teams competing in their respective NCAA National Championship Tournaments: Men's Soccer won the A10 Conference Championship in 2007 and the Eastern Regional NCAA Tournament before advancing to the NCAA College Cup – the final four in D1 soccer championship (the first such appearance in the team's history), eventually losing to Ohio State in the semi-finals; the Football Team reached the NCAA National Semi-Finals after being consistently ranked in the top ten Football Championship Series for most of the season; Men's Basketball reached the final of the NIT in New York City defeating two-time national champions Florida and Big East power Syracuse before losing in the finals to Big Ten foe Ohio State; the Softball Team made its 14th consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance by capturing the A-10 Championship; the Field Hockey Team won the A10 Conference title and conference championship and competed in the NCAA regional competition; the Men's Baseball Team won the Baseball Bean Pot over Boston College at Fenway Park; and the Men's Skiing Team won the 2008 USCSA National Championship in both the Slalom and Giant Slalom.

Coming off its 10th Atlantic 10 Championship title, the University of Massachusetts Men's Swimming and Diving Team was ranked ninth nationally in the final College Swimming Mid-Major Poll of the year. The UMass Women's Rowing Team placed second at the Atlantic 10 Championship; having previously won the event 12 straight years--the longest streak in any sport in Atlantic 10 history. Women's Tennis Team was ranked #1 in the A-10 Conference Championships.

**Athletic Department's Commitment to Quality Experiences for the Student Athletes, Fans, Alumni and Community.** A first for the Athletic Department was the opening and tournament use of the new Track Complex and improvements to the Softball Complex. UMass hosted the 2008 Atlantic 10 Outdoor Track and Field Championships at the new UMass Track and Field Complex. This two-day event was the first time that UMass has ever hosted the Atlantic 10 Championships. UMass Amherst also hosted the Northeast NCAA Regional Softball Tournament in 2008 at the upgraded stadium complex.

UMass is one of only two schools (the other being Georgetown) set to host the defending national champions for both Men's (Syracuse) and Women's (Northwestern) Lacrosse in the coming academic year. Men's Basketball will also play defending national champion Kansas in the coming year (2008-2009). UMass Football is scheduled to play BCS championship team Texas Tech in the Fall of 2008. UMass softball has consistently played a high quality field of top ranked teams including such teams as Michigan, Arizona, Arizona State, UCLA, Tennessee and Oklahoma among others. These are a few examples of how UMass continues to improve by playing a high-quality competitive field of teams. This follows the department's strategic plan to play high quality competition and to play to win; to enhance the student athlete and the fan experience by competing in high quality competitive games/events; and to provide the proper resources to accomplish these goals the right way.

**Student Athlete Academic and Athletic Awards.** A number of athletes and coaches garnered accolades for success both athletically and academically.

Goalkeeper Zach Simmons (Men's Soccer) had a breakout year in goal for the Minutemen in the Fall of 2007 and gained national attention during the NCAA Tournament. He earned UMBRO/Soccer News Net National Player of the Year, NSCAA/Adidas All-America Third-Team, NSCAA/Adidas Mid-Atlantic Region First Team, Soccer America MVP First Team, College Cup All-Tournament Team, ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District, A-10 Soccer Scholar-Athlete of the Year, Atlantic 10 Tournament MVP, Atlantic 10 Tournament Team, Atlantic 10 All-Conference First Team, UMass Athlete of the Year, UMass Scholar Athlete of the Year, and UMass Fall Scholar-Athlete accolades.

Pam Rosanio (Women's Basketball) was named second team A-10 All Conference and was only one of two players in school history with 1,000 points, 500 rebounds, and 300 assists in a career.

The UMass Women's Cross-Country team was named a United States Track & Field/Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) Division I All-Academic Team that recognizes teams with grade-point-averages of 3.0 or higher. The Minutewomen ranked 36th out of 159 colleges on the All-Academic Team list boasting a team GPA of 3.50. The Minutewomen were also one of four teams in the Atlantic 10 to be honored as All-Academic Teams. During the fall 2007 season, UMass senior runner Christina Derosa and freshman Shiyi Zan made the A-10 Academic All-Conference team and earned 2007 All-Conference honors after finishing in the top-15 at the A-10 Championship. DeRosa was also named the A10 League's Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Senior Becky Letourneau and Senior Erin O'Brien were named to the 2007 Longstreth/NFHCA Division I Northeast Region as voted on by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association.

Women's Soccer senior defender Kaelyn Caldwell has been named to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America Third Team, as announced by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). She was named to the A-10 Academic All-Conference Team for the third year in a row, and First-Team Academic All-District, that qualified her for All-America honors. Senior defender Kaelyn Caldwell and junior defender Vanessa Patry were also named to the NSCAA/Adidas Scholar All-East Region Honorable Mention team. These Minutewomen were among the top women's soccer players on the east coast who maintain a high GPA in addition to playing well on the soccer field.

For Swimming, Senior Reuben Rappe was named Men's Most Outstanding Diver while junior Karen Upperco was named Women's Most Outstanding Diver in the A10.

Seven UMass Women's Lacrosse players earned Atlantic 10 All-Conference honors. Merritt Cosgrove was named to the All-Academic Team the year's Lacrosse honors for UMass.

Three UMass Women Rowers were named to the Atlantic 10 Academic All Conference Team. Junior Airlina Burrill, senior Sarah Marsan, and senior Amy Rayla earned the academic honors.

Four Minutewomen Softball players were honored when the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference released its 2008 Division I All-Star teams in 2008. Junior Brandice Balschmiter was named Pitcher of the Year and a first team All-Star, both for the second-straight season. She was named an Easton Second-Team All-American, has earned All-America honors in each of her three seasons at UMass, and she becomes the only player in program history to have earned three Easton All-America honors. Designated player Lindsay Maroney was named the ECAC's Rookie of the Year and a second team All-Star. Junior Whitney Mollica

was a first team All-Star, garnering the honor at third base, while sophomore Carly Normandin was named to the second team outfield. UMass senior outfielder Lauren Proctor was named an ESPN The Magazine First-Team Academic All-District. In addition, sophomore pitcher Bailey Sanders earned second-team Academic All-District honors.

UMass Women's Tennis players Candyne Boney and Masha Pozar were named to the Atlantic 10 First Team for the 2008 Season. Pozar was also named to the Atlantic 10 Academic All-Conference Team. She finished her collegiate career with a 3.703 GPA majoring in Journalism.

UMass Lacrosse stars Jackie Rosenzweig, of the Women's Lacrosse Team and Doc Schneider, of the Men's Lacrosse Team, were named First-Team Jewish All-Americans by the Jewish Sports Review.

In Men's Basketball, Gary Forbes was voted to the First Team All District Team by the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

Meanwhile, Matt Austin and Jason Hatchell (Football) were named to the 2007 Walter Camp All-Americans. Hatchell (Football) was also named to the Fabulous 50 All Americans by the College Sporting News, and nine (9) football players were named to the Sports Network All-Americans and four players were named ECAC All-Stars. Eleven players from the 2007 squad were named Academic-All Conference Players by the Colonial Athletic Conference in February 2008.

UMass Men's Hockey Team named 12 players to the Hockey East All Academic Team. UMass' David Leaderer was named New England's Joe Tomasello Unsung Hero, while the New England Hockey Writers Association named Mike Kostka to the Division I All-Star Team.

Men's Lacrosse named four (4) players to the All ECAC Academic Team while Sean Krygier was named the USILA Scholar All-American and Tim Balise was named ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American.

Brian Baudinet and Adam Tempesta of the UMass Baseball Team were honored when the New England Intercollegiate Baseball Association announced its Division I All-New England Team for 2008. Both players were named to the All-New England second team and were invited to play in the NEIBA New England College All-Star Game to be played at Fenway Park. Mitchell Eilenberg, a pitcher on the UMass baseball team, was named to the Atlantic 10 All-Academic team. The junior had a cumulative GPA of 3.74 while double-majoring in Management and Economics.

Ryan Durkin, Men's Track and Field, was the featured speaker and scholarship winner at the Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund's 59th annual banquet. Durkin was also named as one of 11 seniors presented with the 21st Century Leader Award that is co-sponsored by the Chancellor's Office and the Alumni Association.

**Coach and Administrator Recognition.** A number of coaches and the Athletic Director, John McCutcheon, were recognized for outstanding performances and honors in 2007-2008.

The American Football Foundation recognized John McCutcheon with the General Robert Neyland Outstanding Athletic Director Award, and Coach Don Brown with the Johnny Vaught Coach of the Year Award.

Sam Koch was named NSCAA/Adidas Mid-Atlantic Region Coach of The Year and A-10 Coach of the Year.

University of Massachusetts Field Hockey coach Justine Sowry was named Division I Coach of the Year by WomensFieldHockey.com in 2007. The first-year coach led the Minutewomen to their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2001. Sowry was also named Coach of the Year by the Atlantic 10 Conference.

In the summer of 2008, Head Women's Tennis Coach Judy Dixon was also inducted into the USTA New England Hall of Fame.

The Spring of 2008 included a historic moment for Softball Head Coach Elaine Sortino, who won her 1,000th career game on April 13, 2008 against Temple. She returned her team to the NCAA Regional Tournament for the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive time.

Head Swimming Coach Russ Yarworth was named the A-10's Coach of the Year for the ninth time in his 29 seasons at UMass. Coach Mandy Hixon was named Diving Coach of the Year for both men's and women's diving in the A10 Conference.

### **III. OVERVIEW OF THE ATHLETIC COUNCIL'S 2007-08 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 2007-08 year, the Athletic Council continued its focus on the Campus Recreation Center, compliance and annual report updates, and Athletic Department improvements for the coming year including the strategic planning and development for a new Champions Center and new Baseball Complex. This past year also marked the opening of the new Track Complex and additions/improvements to the Softball Complex and Garber Field. The Champions Center Complex presentation was made to the Council. This facility is expected to include new practice facilities, conditioning, sports medicine and administrative offices and Hall of Fame components. The facility is planned to be located in the area near the Mullins Center and adjacent to the new power plant, replacing the current Lorden Field Baseball Complex. The new Baseball Complex will be located adjacent to the McGuirk Stadium and visible from the highway. Fundraising and conceptual plans have begun on both facilities.

The Council also heard reports on the Academic Progress Reports now mandated by the NCAA for the Athletic Department; consideration and reviews of a proposal for Women's Ice Hockey NCAA team status; and new conference affiliation for Men's Lacrosse.

On November 2, 2007, Athletic Council members participated in the groundbreaking ceremonies of the Recreation Center. After a short delay in the startup process, the new Campus Recreation Center is now under construction with the superstructure nearing completion and the facility rapidly being closed in for the winter. The facility is still expected to open in August 2009.

During August 14-16, 2007, the A-10 Conference Certification site visit took place and was coordinated by Jackie Campbell, Associate Commissioner for the A-10 Conference. This is a process conducted once every seven years in which the Athletic Department is reviewed by the A-10 Conference in the areas of Academics, Compliance, and Equity and Student-Athlete Welfare. The Athletic Council was involved in the process with members serving as Co-Chairs being interviewed as part of the review process. Areas were

noted where the compliance functions could be strengthened and where various changes could be implemented that would lead to further enhancements. However, the report stated “the University of Massachusetts’ athletic compliance program is engaged and effective in maintaining the institution’s adherence to NCAA legislation” (comment cited in September 13, 2007 letter from Jackie Campbell).

The Athletic Council received its annual report from the Director of Athletics, John McCutcheon and Associate Athletic Director, Elaine Sortino regarding Equity; Minority Issues and Opportunities; and Student-Athlete Welfare. 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. This report also serves to provide monitoring and reporting on Title IX compliance, gender issues and general student athlete welfare. Specific sections of the report include participation or roster management; student athlete minority opportunity; scholarships; athletic department staffing; and student-athlete welfare.

After hearing concerns regarding crowd behavior at selected athletic contests, the Athletic Council has asked the Athletic Department to continue to monitor fan behavior and to seek assistance from league officials in curbing the unruly behavior and obscene language issues.

The Council also carefully reviewed issues on the financial standing of the department, athletic ticket sales, practice facility timing and issues, and attention to the registration process for student athletes. Carol Barr, Co-Chair of the Athletic Council, served on the Search Committee for the Men’s Head Basketball Coach that brought former UMass player, Derek Kellogg, back to coach the Minutemen. These issues and others are discussed in more detail here in the subcommittee reports.

The following are the reports from the Athletic Council Subcommittees.

#### **IV. ATHLETIC COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Athletic Council has six subcommittees, 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 subcommittee. 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 subcommittee meets, on average, once per semester.

##### **A. Academics**

The Chair of the Academics Subcommittee resigned from the Athletic Council in the late Spring of 2008. Although there was no subcommittee report, the Athletic Council did continue to monitor reports from the Academic Advising Office of the Athletic Department and provided this updated report and progress from this division. Role of the Academics Subcommittee: the Academics Subcommittee oversees the academic performance of team members. This includes team graduation rates, team GPA, and academic progress. The Academic Subcommittee also addresses issues pertinent to the academic performance and support provided to student athletes. Joan Hopkins has served as the Athletic Department Representative to this subcommittee and to the Council.

Director Joan Hopkins oversees a staff of five (5) full-time counselors who are assigned a caseload of approximately 135 student athletes each. Tutoring is available in every subject and a tutoring and advising office is open 64.5 hours per week with advising hours for students made available on a daily basis from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Every freshman meets with a counselor once a week in an individual or group setting. The MASS (Making Athletes Successful Students) program continues to play an important role in the advising program. For approximately 125 of our student athletes, this program provides meetings once or twice a week with a counselor and weekly reports to the coaches on these meetings. Dual advising continues to go well and the Director continues to monitor the volume of Independent Studies taken by student athletes.

The most significant contact between Academic Services and the faculty is through the Progress Reports, which are solicited each semester. Academic Services has tested and is pleased with the efforts of faculty to participate in the automated online reporting program. This new system enables Academic Services to obtain feedback from the faculty at a much higher speed and rate. Academic Services has found faculty have increased their participation of the electronic submission of mid-semester progress reports. This new system replaces an old, hard copy, manual reporting and data entry system and has helped to identify student athletes who are “at risk” or who are experiencing academic difficulties sooner than with the previous method.

Student athletes are represented in 59 of the 86 degree programs at the University. The NCAA requires student-athletes to declare their majors by beginning of their junior year.

## **B. Compliance**

Role of the Compliance Subcommittee: The Compliance Subcommittee reviews the Department of Athletics’ efforts to comply with NCAA regulations and mandates. The Subcommittee meets near the end of each semester to review the functions of the Athletic Department Compliance Office. This year, the Subcommittee met on February 15, 2008 to review the fall semester compliance issues and on May 6, 2008 to review the Spring Semester compliance issues.

Every coaching staff member 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. These are accomplished through monthly coaches meetings.

Representatives from the Athletic Department, including Associate Athletic Director for Compliance Trish Turley and Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance Carol Ford, met with the Compliance Subcommittee to provide an update on a variety of items including the Special Assistance Fund (a fund that is used to assist student athletes experiencing or having 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. One minor athletic violation and two other minor violations were reported to the NCAA during this period. The Compliance athletic staff met with the coaches monthly to review pertinent compliance issues. The Compliance Subcommittee also heard from Tricia Turley regarding newly adopted, defeated and deferred legislation from the January 2008 NCAA Convention.

**APR Update.** The Preliminary 2006-2007 Academic Progress Report was released on May 2, 2008. The APR report covers the years of 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07. The report includes a multi-year APR figure; percentile ranks within the sport; percentile rank within all sports; and comparative numbers for

all Division I, Public Institutions, Private Institutions, Football Bowl Subdivision Schools, Football Championship Subdivision Schools and Division I Schools. The four-year average for all institutions needs to be 925, which represents a 92.5% of academic retention and eligibility of student athletes. Only one team is now under the 925 cutoff rate that may signal the reduction in scholarship aid for the team. This is Men's Basketball; however, the Men's Basketball rate average is 903 and it has improved and is projected to be higher in the coming years. As the Athletic Department Compliance Office has monitored this team closely, the quality of the 2007-2008 freshmen Men's Basketball admissions class who are on scholarship aid has improved substantially. Graduation and retention rates are affected when a coaching change occurs and with the change in the head coaching position in Men's Basketball in April/May, there may be some transfers. However, there appears to be minimal disruption here at this point.

Two teams had perfect scores – Men's Skiing and Women's Rowing. The APRs compared favorably to other Division I and public institution averages. The UMass Women's sports fared very well across nearly all sports in these comparisons. All athletic teams were reviewed here including Men's Basketball, Football, Ice Hockey, and Men's Lacrosse.

**Update on FAR Duties and Progress Report.** Glenn Wong, (Professor of Sport Management and current UMass FAR) provided an update on the FAR (Faculty Athletic Representative) issues he dealt with over Fall and Spring Semesters of 2007-08. These issues included the changes in involvement of the FARs in the A10 Conference operations; search committee and search process for new A10 Commissioner; the student-athlete registration process; involvement in the search process for men's basketball coach; and an update on confidential student athlete issues. Glenn Wong was also instrumental in inviting Chancellor Thomas Cole to the April meeting of the Athletic Council. Professor Wong also heads up the Transfer Appeals Committee and the Professional Sports Career Counseling Panel. No new cases were reviewed by either of these groups although some consultation was advised when student athletes were considered (or considering) for professional sport contracts.

### **C. Equity, Minority Opportunities and Student Athlete Welfare**

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

Elaine Sortino provided The Equity and Student Athlete Welfare Report for 2007-2008.

Associate Athletic Director/SWA Elaine Sortino provided the following information to the Athletic Council for the year 2007-2008 Academic Year. Specific sections of the report that follow include participation or roster management; student athlete minority opportunity; scholarships; athletic department staffing; and student athlete welfare.

**Participation.** The Department continues the practice of "roster management" which gives each sports program a target roster number for their first date of competition. Information provided by the Office of Institutional Research shows that there were 9,570 males (50.3%) and 9,329 females (49.6%) full-time undergraduate students enrolled at the University of Massachusetts for the fall 2007. It should be noted that the totals on each roster for all sport programs included those student athletes who have medical exceptions or have exhausted their eligibility. The roster numbers for all sports for the 2007-08 academic year, based on the first date of competition, totaled 356 men (50%) and 345 women (50%). Therefore, the participation numbers were in compliance with Title IX.

**Student Athlete Minority Opportunity.** The Department of Athletics provides the NCAA annually with information on the ethnicity of student athletes. The data is broken down into NCAA categories, and collected for all student athletes including scholarship athletes. This information indicated that the total percentage of minority student athletes for 2007-08 was 24%. When further defined by gender, the total was 31% male, and 16% female student athletes.

There were 207 male student athletes receiving athletic aid in 2007-08, of which 71 or 34% were minorities. On the female side, there were 170 receiving scholarships, of which 18 or 10.5% were minorities.

**Scholarships.** The total scholarship dollar expenditure, as reported in the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Analysis report for the 2007-2008 academic year, was \$3,088,397 or 56.8% going to male student athletes and \$2,349,445 or 43.2% going to female student athletes. It should be noted that the scholarship dollars by percentage for 2006-07 were 58% for men and 42% for women, as the department continues to move positively in attaining compliance in this category. These figures include all scholarships, winter session aid, summer school aid, and course related books.

**Athletic Department Staffing.** The Athletic Department continues to remain committed in its effort to encourage and recruit minority applicants, particularly for entry-level coaching and administrative positions. When conducting a search, the department advertises positions with the NCAA, Black Coaches Association, the Springfield Newspapers, and uses the NCAA Diversity and Inclusion Participant Profiles.

In 2007-08, there were 16 full-time positions searched with four (4) being offered and filled by minority candidates (3 males and 1 female). Seven (7) coaches were hired, including two (2) women and one (1) minority male. The Department was made up of 162 full- and part-time employees, of which 18 or 11% were of minority ethnicity. Additionally, women currently make up 36% of the athletic department staff. Minority staff representation in the Athletic Department in 2005-2006 was 7.5%; in 2006-2007 was 9.2%; and now in 2007-2008 is 11%.

**Student Athlete Welfare.** The Athletic Department continues its practice of conducting exit interviews with student athletes who have exhausted their eligibility. Student athletes are randomly assigned to members of the senior staff at the end of the competitive seasons. Interviews are conducted in person orally and in written form, and the response rate remains about 66%. The greatest challenge is in getting the students to respond to the Athletic Department's requests to meet with them. Overall, the interviews continue to reflect that most of the student athletes are satisfied with their athletic experience at the University of Massachusetts.

Support services, particularly access and utilization of the weight room, continues to improve and is reflected by the records kept by the weight room staff. Sports medicine continues to provide comprehensive coverage to all sports programs, both in and out of season.

The Life Skills Program has been extremely beneficial to the student athletes, and the department continues to provide better academic services across the board under the leadership of Associate AD Joan Hopkins. These are outlined in detail under the Academic report.

The Athletic Health Enhancement Program (AHEP) continues to offer mentoring to student athletes of color and is available for diversity training for all members of the department.

The Department's apparel contract with Adidas continues to provide high quality footwear, uniforms, and practice gear to all sport teams.

Facilities, particularly availability for indoor space in the winter months, continue to be a challenge for the department.

Finally, in 2007-08, all student athletes of all sports teams were invited to participate in a Student Athlete Climate Study, sponsored by the NCAA. The survey examined the climate for student athletes in intercollegiate athletics. It also investigated if there were differences in the experiences of student athletes based on characteristics (e.g., gender, race, citizenship and sports). The survey was confidential, was accessed online, and 406 student athletes participated in the survey. UMass was a pilot site for this study from the NCAA and response rate of the UMass student athletes was the highest of all pilot test schools.

#### **D. Facilities**

The Facilities Subcommittee met on May 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss issues regarding athletic and recreational facilities on the UMass Amherst Campus. Dan Markowski, Assistant Athletic Director of Facilities and Operations, provided an update on all facility improvements that were completed or begun between June 2007 and May 2008. He also provided a list of anticipated facility upgrades. These projects were reviewed and discussed.

**Projects Completed in 2007-2008.** The projects included upgrades to the Softball Complex, Mullins Center Plaza improvements; tennis court repairs; and upgrades at McGuirk Stadium.

New softball seats were installed in the Spring of 2008 at the Softball Stadium. The project consisted of 384 total seats with 1010 chair backs and 16 handicap seats. The cost of the project was \$485,000. The funds were privately raised. A press box is to be added later perhaps as early as the summer of 2008. The cost for the press box will be \$10,000 and it will be funded by the Athletic Department.

The tennis courts behind the Mullins Center were repaired at the contractor's expense.

McGuirk Stadium power washing was completed prior to the beginning of the season and some additional painting was completed there as well.

As part of the Central Power Plant Project and replacement of steam lines across campus and through the Mullins Center Plaza area, the plaza area was rebuilt and paved with pavers, planters and improved lighting and signage. Funds were provided for this project by the Building Authority and bonds from the power plant project.

**Projects Started in 2007-2008.** A number of new projects were started in this report year.

The new Campus Recreation Center is under construction and completion is still expected by August 2009. The cost of the project is \$55 million and is funded by student fees. The Center will contain open court space, a jogging track, and workout rooms with free weights, weight machines and cardio/aerobic fitness equipment. The design and sighting allows for a pool to be added at a later time.

Lights are being installed at the McGuirk Stadium for football and other sports to be played there. The project is to be completed in the Summer of 2008 and ready for the Fall Semester 2008 football season. The project will consist of six (6) light standards with sufficient illumination for high definition television

broadcasts. The cost will be \$1.7 million and it will be funded by a combination of private and university funds. It is expected that broadcasting and adjusted game times will help to boost revenues and attendance.

The bleachers at Garber Field will be replaced in the Summer of 2008. Seating will be provided for 1,684. A handicap accessible press box will be installed as well. The cost will be approximately \$575,000 and it will be funded with private money.

The perimeter fences at the Softball Complex will be replaced in the Summer of 2008. The cost will be \$27,000 and it will be funded by the University.

**Projects in Planning Stages.** There is planning underway for a boathouse for the rowing teams. Currently, the plan calls for a project between UMass and the City of Northampton. The facility is planned near the Connecticut River and the Coolidge Bridge.

Long-range planning continues for a new athletic facility at the site of Lorden Baseball Field. The new building, currently called the "Champions Center," will include a building containing office space, basketball practice facilities, weight rooms and training rooms. To accommodate the siting of this building, planning is also underway to relocate the baseball field adjacent to the McGuirk Stadium and the track and field throwing area.

**Additional Facility Planning Issues.** Dan Markowski, Assistant Athletic Director of Facilities and Operations, informed the subcommittee of several ongoing concerns. He stated that with the opening of the new track and addition of the field turf and lights to McGuirk Stadium, more personnel will be needed to staff those facilities for games, practices and special tournaments and this is particularly problematic when events are held at the same or overlapping times. He did state that he was grateful for the additional employee the Athletic Department hired this year.

Mr. Markowski also reported that the Athletic Department has continued to promote the University and the new athletic facilities by successfully hosting NCAA Football, Soccer, Softball, NIT Basketball Tournament, A10 Women's Lacrosse, and A10 Men's and Women's Track and Field conference championships. He also stated that the A-10 conference championships will return to the UMass Track and Field Complex in 2010 and the New England Regional NCAA track and field championships will be held at the same complex in 2009.

## **E. Finance, Development, and Tickets**

**Role of the Finance, Development, and Tickets Subcommittee:** This subcommittee 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 subcommittee also monitors the ticket distribution policies and practices. The obligation of this subcommittee is to correlate programs and financing, providing advice or recommendations as appropriate.

The relationship between programs and financing of them was further stabilized during this 2007-08 academic year. The 2007-2008 academic year continued with much the same trend as the previous year with strong and outstanding performances in post-season competition such as Field Hockey, Football, Men's Soccer, Men's Basketball, Men's and Women's Skiing, Men's Swimming and Softball. This academic year also resulted in the fruition of various facilities projects such as the completion of the softball bleachers and the first home match on the new outdoor tennis courts. The bleacher project allowed the department to

expand the ticket revenue to include the nationally recognized Women's program in Softball and to serve as a host site for the NCAA tournaments. While these accomplishments enhance various revenue streams, the department continues to be plagued by the dramatic increase in travel costs. This will be an ongoing area of discussion for the subcommittee in conjunction with the department. Total revenues for Athletics in 2007-2008 were \$22,928,781.26 and total expenses for the year were \$22, 192,382.66. The FY 08 final budget is attached here.

**F. Visions**

Role of the Visions Subcommittee: This subcommittee reviews the Strategic Plan of the Athletic Department providing suggestions and feedback as appropriate.

The Visions Subcommittee was not active during the 2007-08 academic year, but has been reactivated for 2008-09.

**V. ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT BUDGET**

Pursuant to our charge as a Council, the Athletic Department FY08 budget is provided on the next page. As can be seen, the Athletic Department operated in the black for the fourth straight year.

	<b>UMass Athletic Department FY 2008 Final Budget</b>	<b><i>FY08 Actual</i></b>	<b><i>Percentage of Overall Budget</i></b>
<b>Revenues</b>			
	State and University Subsidy	\$9,907,120.92	43%
	Student Fees	\$7,225,018.56	32%
	Ticket and Guarantee Revenue	\$1,881,657.80	8%
	Marketing Corporate, TV, and Radio Sponsorship	\$799,977.82	3%
	Conference and NCAA Distribution	\$719,800.00	3%
	Facility Rental Income and Miscellaneous	\$232,141.49	1%
	Post Season Reimbursement and Ticket Revenue	\$584,682.97	3%
	UMAA Foundation Annual Drive towards scholarship *1	\$175,420.80	1%
	Alumni/Gift Accounts	\$618,463.54	3%
	Camps	\$17,737.48	0%
	Campus Recreation	\$766,760.58	3%
	<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$22,928,781.96</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
	Compensation	\$7,669,520.19	35%
	Scholarships *2	\$5,349,123.04	24%
	Sport Program Operating Budgets	\$3,865,346.94	17%
	Post Season Budget	\$693,865.96	3%
	Facilities, Game Operations, and Utilities	\$1,608,297.30	7%
	Administrative Operating Budgets	\$1,759,069.67	8%
	Alumni/Gift Accounts	\$591,687.80	3%
	Camps	\$6,120.73	0%
	Campus Recreation	\$649,351.03	3%
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$22,192,382.66</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

\*2 The following is a breakdown of scholarship revenue sources

Scholarship Revenue		
	Student Fee	\$2,806,997.26
	Board of Higher Education Waiver	\$1,378,000.00
	GOF	\$988,704.98
	UMAA Scholarship Fund	\$175,420.80
	<b>Total Revenue Allocated to Scholarships</b>	<b>\$5,349,123.04</b>
Scholarship Expenses	<b>Total Expenses Allocated to Scholarships</b>	<b>\$5,349,123.04</b>

## VI. OTHER ISSUES

**A. Faculty Athletic Representative to the NCAA.** The University continues to be fortunate to have Glenn Wong, Professor in Sport Management, 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. Preparation of Annual Reports and Presentation to Faculty Senate.
4. Participation in Chancellor, President, and Trustees meetings.
5. Serving on Special Advisory Committee when needed including coach searches and other review processes.
6. Representing the Athletic Council at Alumni and Development functions of the University, including Athletic Council Hall of Fame Inductions.

## 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 for the 2007-2008 academic year. 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. The Council is proud of their accomplishments. The Council also acknowledges the work of the coaches who continue to produce quality teams, show a commitment to winning traditions, engage in high quality athletic experiences for the student athletes and the University community; and are recognized for their efforts in being awarded Coach of the Year honors and related honors.