

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting – May 4, 2007 11:30 a.m.

PRESENT: C. Barr, J. Brigham, J. Duboff, A. Garnier, R. Goodhue, J. McCutcheon, Brian O'Connor, M.J. Peterson, G. Richason, S. Upton, P. Vittum, E. Ward, R. Warnick, E. Washington, G. Wong
GUESTS: T. Bjorn, J. Grandonico, E. Sortino
ABSENT: E. May, T. Nappi

Opening Remarks

- Chancellor is unable to attend the meeting due to a President's Office meeting in Boston.
- The Council applauded two council members whose service is complete; Josh Duboff will be graduating and passing the baton as Sam the Minuteman. The Co-Chairs also thanked Alix Garnier as a student representative.
- Co-Chair Barr thanked Co-Chair Petersen who will be stepping down from her service as a co-chair while on sabbatical.

Approval of the Minutes of the April 6, 2007 Meeting

- After changing the years of George Richason's service from 42 to "several, it was then moved by G. Richason, seconded by E. Ward; all members voted to accept the April 6, 2007 minutes.

Appointment of nominations committee and chair

- George Richason agreed to act as the Chair of the Nominations council. Rod Warnick, and Bob Goodhue volunteered to serve on this committee.

Report of the Subcommittees

- Academic Sub Committee Chair John Brigham reported on the following; the advising program, progress reports, a comparison of student athletes and the general student body and academic achievement. AD McCutcheon gave high praise to the fantastic job that Joan Hopkins has done in her first year as Associate AD for Academic Services. It was motioned by Ed Ward and seconded by Carol Barr to accept the Academic report. All council members were in favor.
- Compliance Sub Committee Chair Rod Warnick reported on the following items: FAR Report and Update, the Professional Athlete Career Counseling Panel, the Compliance Department Update which includes special assistance fund update information, a waiver update, medical hardship waivers, and a violation summary, APR reports, admissions update, coaches meeting agendas, new NCAA Legislation and compliance office newsletters, and the A-10 Compliance Review for the summer 2007. It was motioned by Ed Ward and seconded by Bob Goodhue to accept the Compliance report. All were in favor.
- Equity and Student Athlete Welfare Subcommittee Chair Pat Vittum reported on the following issues: gender-equity being close to the University goal with 51% male student-athletes and 49% female student athletes. It was motioned by George Richason and seconded by Glenn Wong to accept the Equity and Student Athlete Report. All council members were in favor.

- Vision Subcommittee will report in the fall after meeting later this month.

Report on minority matters in the Athletic Department: John McCutcheon

- AD McCutcheon clarified the disparity of women's scholarships within the Athletic Department.

Report of the Athletic Department: AD John McCutcheon

- The Athletic Department received the official NCAA recertification without any conditions. Applause from the Council members followed the announcement. The certification is subject to be reviewed in five years. Recertification will be in eight years as opposed to a ten year review.
- The Board of Trustees Athletic Subcommittee will be moving away from reviewing the feasibility of I-A Football. The issue of moving the Club Sport to a Division I-A Women's Ice Hockey Team is being examined. The move would be very expensive.
- The Atlantic 10 Conference will be examining standards of men and women's student athletes performances and the conference's support of the different programs.
- The athletic administration will be examining more proactive approach to fan and student behavior during events. Thorr Bjorn discussed a broad-based study group will be organized on campus with student leaders, council members, and the police department to discuss fan conduct issues.
- Softball had great success in this key series as they host the A-10 Softball tournament next week.
- Baseball is around 500 and more competitive than in years.
- Lacrosse is at Rutgers tomorrow.
- Track hosted their third meet last week. The track is in need of bleachers, stands, and a new scoreboard.
- Spring football game is tomorrow.
- AD McCutcheon thanked members for their invaluable participation as council members.

New Business

- Schedule of meeting dates for fall will be September 14, October 19, November 16, December 14.
- Identification of items current members want to flag for discussion in fall.