

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting – September 14, 2007 11:30 a.m.

PRESENT: C. Barr, J. Brigham, J. Gladden, R. Goodhue, J. McCutcheon, Brian O’Connor,
G. Richason, S. Upton, P. Vittum, E. Ward, R. Warnick, E. Washington
GUESTS: J. Grandonico, E. Sortino
ABSENT: E. May, T. Schoenadel, G. Wong

Welcome

- Co-Chair Barr had the council members introduce themselves and welcomed the new members to the council. Tracy Schnaedel and Jay Gladden will be two of our new faculty representatives.
- Glenn Wong is out with a medical leave.
- Co-Chair Barr reviewed the charge of the council as being an advisory board to the Athletic Director, the Athletic Department, the Board of Trustees, and the Faculty Senate. The six subcommittees that represent the council are academics, facilities, compliance, finance, equity, minority opportunities and student-athlete welfare, and vision.
- The subcommittee and contact sheets were distributed.

Approval of the Minutes of the May 4, 2007 Meeting

- Co-Chair Barr asked that “Brian O’Connor will be retiring” be deleted from the May 4, 2007 minutes since he has postponed his retirement. The approval of the minutes was then moved by Rod Warnick and seconded by Bob Goodhue and accepted by members of the council.

Meet the Coach – Elaine Sortino, Head Softball Coach

- Co-Chair Barr introduced Elaine as being in her 27th year as the Head Softball coach and having been inducted into the National Fast-pitch Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2004. She has led the softball program to 18 Atlantic 10 Conference titles, 16 NCAA regional appearances and three trips to the World Series.
- Coach Sortino reported on the physical expansion and upgrade of the softball stadium’s seating area. The sale of personalized chair backs for \$500 will be unveiled at the October 6th Softball banquet.
- The 5th Annual Softball Golf Tournament fundraiser will be held at Pine Grove on October 8.
- The two new batting cages will be built in Boyden which will enable the team to hit an actual softball in the winter months rather than tennis balls.
- Coach also discussed the softball travel schedule, her current team’s roster, and the great support of UMass softball fans.

Report from the Nominating Committee: George Richason, Chair

- The nominating committee consists of Bob Goodhue, Rod Warnick and George Richason, Chair. The nominated co-chairs are Carol Barr and Rod Warnick with secretary to the council being Pat Vittum. There being no other nominations from the floor, motions were closed. Cast the vote in accepting the slate, the motion was presented to the council by the former secretary, Rod Warnick. The Athletic Council voted in favor of accepting the slate as presented.

Status Report on Vision Sub-Committee Work: Brian O'Connor

- Co-Chair Barr and Vision Subcommittee Co-Chair Brian O'Connor reported that the '06 – '07 Vision Subcommittee was on hiatus and will be reengaged for the '07 – '08 season.

Report on Current Issues: Carol Barr and John McCutcheon

- AD McCutcheon and Co-Chair Barr reviewed issues related to the UDC Subcommittee on Athletics, the Board of Trustees Task Force to Study Women's Ice Hockey at UMass Amherst, and the Task Force on I-A Football. Dual advising, academic regulations was discussed at length. George Richason recognized that Ernie Washington was instrumental in the fruition of dual-advising. Ernie expounded on the need for minorities to be more integrated into the academic community.

Report of the Athletic Department: AD John McCutcheon

- AD McCutcheon reviewed the expansion projects of the Softball Grandstands which will be approximately \$390,000 and the Garber Field Grandstands estimated at approximately \$420,000.
- Team performances: Football 2-0; Men's Soccer is 3-2; Women's Soccer is 2-1; Field Hockey is 3-4; Men's Cross Country placed 2nd in their first meet; Women's Cross Country placed 3rd in their first meeting.
- November 2 will be the groundbreaking on the recreation center
- AD McCutcheon will be meeting with Women's Ice Hockey Task Force Chair, Trustee Jennifer Braccaras to discuss the Chancellor search.
- Homecoming will be on October 20 vs. Northeastern University.
- Staff cookout that the council is invited to will be Monday, Sep 24 at Amherst Golf Course.
- AD McCutcheon invited the council to attend the November 2nd Recreation Center Groundbreaking.
- The feasibility and cost of installing hand railings at the football stadium was discussed at length by the council and AD McCutcheon.
- Corporate sponsorship sales and marketing responsibilities has been transitioned to Todd McDonald as Thorr Bjorn takes over as URI's AD.

New Business

- Remaining fall meetings will be October 19, November 16, December 14
- Co-Chairs will be presenting the annual report to the Faculty Senate
- Sub-committee lists will be distributed at the next meeting
- Co-Chair Warnick commended AD McCutcheon on the outstanding A-10 compliance review
- Co-Chair Barr reported that she will not be attending the next meeting
- Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.