

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Minutes of Emergency Budget Meeting – April 2, 2009 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: C. Barr, P. Chiaro, D. Hernandez, T. Langlais, J. McCutcheon, G. Richason, S. Upton, E. Ward, R. Warnick, E. Washington, G. Wong
GUESTS J. Sarsynski, J. Seguin, E. Sortino
ABSENT J. Gladden, R. Goodhue, L. Mackay, E. May, Brian O'Connor, P. Vittum, T. Schoenadel, S. Schnoerr

- Co-Chair Barr thanked council members for attending this emergency budget meeting on short notice.
- AD John McCutcheon reported to the Athletic Council that The University of Massachusetts, Amherst will discontinue sponsoring its men's and women's skiing programs as varsity sports beginning with the 2010 season. This move is being made as part of a budget reduction and reorganization plan to address an \$850,000 shortfall due to a permanent state budget cut of \$600,000 and additional expenses. In addition to the action being taken with the ski programs the department will make administrative reductions, across the board operating cuts and use non-base funding to fill the remaining gap.
- AD McCutcheon expressed how difficult a decision this has been since the skiing programs have been a big part of the UMass Athletic history, past and present. The school determined that this action was required after a review of all sports that included gender equity, Title IX issues, competitive aspirations as well as NCAA and conference membership requirements. Additionally, the Athletic Department's intent is to support a transition to club sport status for both teams, in sincere hopes of creating a positive experience for current and future skiers at the club level.
- After discussion on whether to draft a memo or email, Co-Chairs Barr and Warnick will email Chancellor Holub to express the council's support of AD McCutcheon with the decisions made during this difficult budgetary crisis.
- The Meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.