University of Massachusetts
Athletic Council Committee Minutes
April 8, 2011
Boyden Building Conference Room

Committee Members Present:
N. Avanzato, D. Brothers, J. Corriveau, J. Crimaro, Z. Hathaway,
S. Hayes, S. Hazen, E. May, J. McCutcheon, G. Richason,
T. Schoenadel, R. Spencer, S. Upton, P. Vittum, E. Ward, Glenn Wong
Co-Chair Nelson Lacey
Co-Chair Rod Warnick

Guests: K. Callicoate, J. Sarsynski, E. Sortino, J. Yellin
Absent: M. Billings, Robert Goodhue, D. Gore, C. Morley

I. Call to Order: Co-Chair Rod Warnick called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.
All present introduced themselves and briefly described their role to the University.

II. Approval of the Minutes of March 4, 2011
Co-Chair Warnick opened the floor to any changes to the minutes. There being none, George Richason so moved and Steve Upton seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the minutes from the March 4, 2011 meeting.

II. Agenda Items – Campus and Athletic Department Planning Theme

Campus Master Plan and Athletics (Campus Planning Office - Dennis Swenford and Neils LaCour)

- Dennis Swenford and Neils LaCour presented the new master campus plan, a representation of a vision for the physical changes on campus over the next several decades. They described the process of collecting needs and wishes for the campus’s short and long term change resulting in a framework for creating a master plan. They first look at open spaces on campus such as the campus pond and the historical core in order to then map out land use for residential and student services.

- Dennis illustrated other existing campus conditions, vehicular and pedestrian flow. A future goal is a strong pedestrian spine through central campus which will help preserve the historical core of the campus pond and the chapel area.
Another goal is to reduce Massachusetts Avenue from four to two lanes of traffic which would result in more development capacity both east and west of Mass Avenue. The power point presentation included mapped locations of parking structures and physical constraints in new development such as poor soil, steep topography and wet lands. Dennis also outlined the growth study of the campus student body for the next 40 years. The vision is 30,000 students by 2020.

- Facility Planning is experimenting on site locations for the Champions Center Phase I of the Indoor Practice Facility for Basketball and Phase II which will be a replacement space for Boyden Building and all the sports that it houses. Champions Center Location ideas include the area near or around Lorden Field or Lot 67 parking area near the Mullins Center. Dennis outlined possible long term changes such as a new exit from Rt 116 to aid vehicular traffic and creating a shuttle system to drop people onto the core region of campus from a core parking lot for all employees.

- A lengthy discussion followed on parking constraints for student-athletes. Dennis agreed to meeting with coaches to create better parking solutions for student-athletes’ early a.m. and evening practices. Co-Chair Warnick encouraged Dennis Swenford to meet with John McCutcheon, Elaine Sortino and coaches to get feedback on traffic and the day to day parking needs of Athletic Coaches and student-athletes. Other discussion items included enhancement to the Recreation Center and the McGuirk Stadium and possible relocation of the Lorden Baseball Field.

Athletic Department Strategic Plan Update (McCutcheon, Callicoate, and Goodhue)

- Co-Chair Warnick asked to table this agenda item to May since Bob Goodhue is away. The Vision Subcommittee will meet prior to the May Meeting when the Chancellor is also speaking to the Council.

4. Update NCAA Audit and Survey Responses (Warnick and Lacey)

- Co-Chair Lacey reported that the NCAA Audit is scheduled and the report written by the faculty (Rebecca Spencer, Marilyn Billings, Rod Warnick, and Nelson Lacey) and Athletic staff is progressing well. The student survey section of the report has had great participation from the student-athletes with 488 out of 700 participants. Students appreciate their UMass experience, but would like to see better and quieter student study areas. Priority registration has been very successful tool in class scheduling and appreciated by the student-athletes. The tutoring process has been more satisfactory for student-athletes.
5. Update Football Conference Realignment (AD McCutcheon)

- AD McCutcheon reported that most of the Football classification issues have been resolved in, but some contractual issues with Gillette Stadium remain unresolved. The MAC Conference has remained very patient in the process. Glenn Wong, FAC and AD McCutcheon have had quite the experience in the last year throughout the entire realignment to the Mid-American Conference.

6. Update Faculty Senate Annual Report Presentation (Warnick)

- Co-Chair Warnick reported that the Annual Faculty Senate presentation went smoothly. Questions on the budget and the football transition were addressed.

7. Athletic Department Update (AD John McCutcheon)

- Football transition issues have dominated the Athletics scene.
- Athletic fields have finally cleared of the snow.
- Track, softball, and baseball are well underway.
- Men’s lacrosse is away at Towson.
- Women’s lacrosse is home with an important game vs. Duquesne
- Boathouse project moving forward with contractual issues.

8. Pending Topics for Future Review

- The remaining spring council meeting is Friday, May 6, 2011 and future topics include a visit from the Chancellor, the outsourcing study and plan and the strategic vision review. Subcommittees are urged to meet if they haven’t done so yet.

- George Richason motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:36 p.m. Steve Upton seconded the motion