University of Massachusetts
Athletic Council Committee Minutes
March 28, 2014
Recreation Center Conference Room

Committee Members Present:
Co-Chair N. Lacey, Co-Chair T. Schoenadel

Guests:  J. Blihar, A. McMahon, J. Sarsynski
Absent:  D. Barstow M. Georgian, R. Goodhue, JC Schnabl, L. Skesavage

I. Call to Order

Co-Chair Schoenadel called the March meeting of the Academic Year to order at 11:32 a.m. and welcomed guest speakers to the meeting.

II. Approval of the Minutes of February 28, 2014

Co-Chair Schoenadel opened the floor to discussion of the Athletic Council minutes from February 28, 2014. There being none, it was so moved by Tracy Schoenadel and seconded by Ed Ward to accept the motion. All were in favor of approving the Minutes from the February 28, 2014 meeting.

III. Meet the Coach: Angela McMahon, Women’s Lacrosse

Coach McMahon warmly thanked the council for the invitation to speak about her program. Coach is working with a great group of women in this year’s lacrosse team comprised mainly of upperclassmen with many outstanding seniors. Women’s Lacrosse is currently 9 – 1 w/ their non-conference schedule – their only loss was to Northwestern so far in the season. Coach McMahon’s goal is to have six consecutive A-10 Championships. Coach discussed helping her student-athletes focus on internships, resumes, interviews and their job search post-season. Coach McMahon fielded a number of questions with topics on cold weather injuries, practice and field conditions both McGuirk and Garber in the bitter cold this winter, and recruiting sources for high profile athletes including top players from within Massachusetts. Angela continued to answer questions on employers’ perceptions and helping to prepare the women for the job force after the university. She discussed her student-athletes majors ranging from Kinesiology, Communications, Business Majors, and Psychology. Coach concluded with facts on Women’s Lacrosse being the fastest growing sport in the NCAA with 105 Division I Programs and her “wish list” for the following facility upgrades for Women’s Lacrosse which include new turf on fields and transitioning into new locker rooms. The Council applauded Coach and her team.
IV. Update from John Blihar – Director of Campus Recreation

John Blihar distributed participation statistics for recreation, intramurals, aquatics and fitness classes. Participation numbers have increased for the Rec Center and its Fitness Classes since the Campus Recreation Center opened in 2010 from 377,430 to 509,450 as of (3/16/14) FY14. There were 5,200 memberships sold to faculty, staff and graduate students in FY 13. John also reviewed the FY13 statistics for number of web hits (588,025), personal training sessions (1,128), intramural contests (2,324), group fitness classes (2,796), and number of student employees (375). FY14 headlines included the Eureka Program - a national science program helping to recruit minority student to campus particularly in the sciences and educational links to fitness and nutrition offered at the Rec Center for inner city youth; swim lessons being offered, recreational tennis courts being reopened, UMass intramurals offering new activities such as speedball, ultimate Frisbee and floor hockey, and outreach community programs on healthy living and wellness. John Blihar reported on the need for the replacement of all the equipment in the Campus Recreation Center since it opened 5 years ago. A buyback program of the old equipment will be part of the bid process which will reduce the $650,000 equipment replacement cost by $50,000. Rod Warnick asked for John’s wish list for the Recreation Center’s future needs – the needs include dedicated stretching space, racquetball courts and a climbing wall and a multi-lane pool. John also reported that over 20,000 people have toured the Recreation Center either with large admission tours, families, or individuals. John gave a thorough overview of the success of the Recreation Center and its huge impact on health quality of student and staff life on campus. Some discussion also revolved around the potential Phase II addition and construction to the Recreation Center and the need for pools. The overall statistics for use through March 2014 are included here as part of this report. The statistics for the previous four years will be shared in the Athletic Council Annual Report.


Rod Warnick asked for comments or suggestions on the Annual Report 2012-13. Rebecca Spencer noted the section on Elaine Sortino under the SAAC paragraph. Co-Chair Schoenadel asked for objections before moving it to approval– there being none, Co-Chair Schoenadel so moved the approval of the Annual Report 2012-13 which was seconded by Ed Ward. All were in favor. The Annual Report was approved at 12:28 pm by the Athletic Council. It will be finalized and prepared to go forward to the Faculty Senate for presentation at the April 17th meeting.

VI. Report by the Athletic Director, John McCutcheon

- John McCutcheon updated the Council on the MAC announcement regarding our affiliate membership in the Mid-American Conference in the sport of Football. The announcement read, “We will be leaving the MAC after the 2015 football season. Under the terms of our contract with the MAC, we had the option to become full members with all applicable sports but after studying the implications of this option, it was clear the challenges this would present financially, competitively and to our student athletes was not in our best interests. We remain committed to FBS football and will continue to pursue a suitable conference alignment as we move forward. In that regard, we have had ongoing
conversations with potential conferences over the past year in anticipation that this situation might develop and will aggressively explore those options."

• On March 26, Barclays Center announced a two-year agreement with the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) and an extension with the Atlantic 10 Conference (A-10) that secures postseason conference tournaments in Brooklyn’s sports and entertainment venue until 2021. Part of this agreement will include the matchup of A10 and ACC games to be held at the Barclay Center as part of the agreement.

• John discussed the Northwestern University football situation with potential unionization and taxes for football players’ scholarships that made national news.

• Spring weather has been awful leaving the playing fields frozen with terrible playing surfaces forcing cancellations of games for Baseball, Softball, Track meets, and Men’s and Women’s Lacrosse. Rowing is the only spring sport able to practice having been on the river for several weeks. The Rowing program may actually benefit as some teams throughout New England are inquiring about moving their competitions to the Connecticut River and using the UMass Rowing facility as the venue due frozen lake and poor water conditions at their home venues.

• An announcement will be made this afternoon that Jaime Seguin will be promoted to Deputy Athletics Director/Senior Women’s Administrator. Jaime’s new role will include overseeing student-athlete welfare. A new Associate Director for Business will be hired shortly and the announcement has been posted.

• A question and answer session followed with the following topics: whether there is any donor interest in building an indoor fieldhouse that would help with brutal winters that hinder winter practices; conference realignment questions for football; Duke potentially playing at the Barclay Center; and getting the maximum UMass fans to attend the UMass vs. Boston College game on August 30 at Gillette Stadium.

VII. Reminder for Annual reports from Subcommittees

• Co-Chair Lacey asked for council members to submit their annual subcommittee reports as soon as possible.

VIII. New Business

• The last spring Athletic Council Meeting will be April 25 that will include a tour at the new Football Facility Building at McGuirk Stadium. This meeting will start at the Mullins Center’s Green Room and we will shuttle in vans to the stadium.

Co-Chair Lacey called for a motion to close the meeting. George Richason so moved to close the meeting at 12:42 pm. Pat Vittum seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 12:42 pm.

Attachment – Campus Recreation Statistics
PARTICIPATION STATISTICS

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY10</th>
<th>FY11</th>
<th>FY12</th>
<th>FY13</th>
<th>FY14(3-16-14)</th>
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<tr>
<td>*RECREATION</td>
<td>377,430</td>
<td>533,623</td>
<td>574,896</td>
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<td>**INTRAMURALS</td>
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<td>28,386</td>
<td>27,694</td>
<td>26,980</td>
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<tr>
<td>***AQUATICS</td>
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<td>FITNESS</td>
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<td>29,822</td>
<td>54,372</td>
<td>61,458</td>
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*Combined numbers from the Recreation Center, Boyden Gym Free Play and Mullins Tennis Courts
**FY13 and FY14 numbers hampered by EEE restrictions
***Combined numbers from Totman and Boyden pools

MORE #STATISTICS

FY13

- 588,025 Web Hits
- 368,012 IM League Hits
- 5,172 Memberships Sold
- 1,128 Personal Training Sessions
- 2,324 Intramural Contests
- 2,796 Group Fit Classes
- 375 Student Employees
FY14 HEADLINES

• EUREKA!

• SWIM - DON’T SINK - CR NOW OFFERS SWIM LESSONS!!

• RECREATIONAL TENNIS COURTS REOPEN

• UMASS INTRAMURALS OFFERS NEW ACTIVITIES

• CR FITNESS/WELLNESS PLAYS KEY ROLE IN EDUCATING CAMPUS

• CAMPUS RECREATION DEVELOPS EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT PLAN

• CR HIRES THREE NEW STAFF

• CAMPUS RECREATION - A LEADER IN SUSTAINABILITY

• FOUR CR STUDENT EMPLOYEES VYING FOR GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

• HELL TO PUTIN AND SOCHI – WE HAVE CROG IN BOYDEN!!

• UMASS INTRAMURALS SETS ENTRY RECORDS!!