University of Massachusetts  
Athletic Council Committee Minutes  
April 25, 2014  
Green Room, Mullins Center

Committee Members Present:  
D. Barstow, E. Hajjar, S. Hazen, N. Lacey, E. May, J. McCutcheon,  
A. Moore, G. Richason, JC Schnabl, R. Spencer, E. Ward, R. Warnick,  
Co-Chair N. Lacey, Co-Chair T. Schoenadel

Guests:  
J. Sarsynski, M. Whipple

Absent:  
T. Anderson, M. Borkhuis, M. Georgian, R. Goodhue, L. Skesavage, P. Vittum

I. Call to Order

Co-Chair Schoenadel called the April meeting of the Academic Year to order at 11:34 a.m. and welcomed guest speakers to the meeting. This meeting was held in the Green Room of the Mullins Center as a tour of the Football Support Building was to be held after the council meeting with transportation being provided to the stadium.

II. Approval of the Minutes of March 28, 2014

Co-Chair Lacey opened the floor to discussion of the Athletic Council minutes from March 28, 2014. There being none, it was so moved by George Richason and seconded by Rebecca Spencer to accept the motion. All were in favor of approving the Minutes from the March 28, 2014 meeting.

III. Meet the Coach: Mark Whipple, Head Coach of Umass Football

Coach Whipple thanked the council for the invitation to speak about the UMass Football program. Coach Whipple discussed how spring practice is progressing, his team’s skill level and the demands of recruiting excellent Division I student-athletes. Coach went on to correlate recruiting success for UMass Football with the need for an indoor practice facility. Coach discussed the need for a large air supported structure to serve as a Multi-purpose Fieldhouse in order to be competitive at a FBS level in football. The proposed indoor bubble facility could include an indoor practice and training environment which would serve as practice and game options for lacrosse, field hockey, baseball and soccer teams in addition to football during our harsh New England winters. AD McCutcheon and council members discussed budget constraints along with positives of the indoor winter practices that an indoor fieldhouse could provide. AD McCutcheon advised that the request should start with Facility Planning, the Building Authority, and the Chancellor.

IV. Sub-Committee Reports – Rod Warnick

Rod Warnick reported that since last year’s meeting was May 17, 2013 which was later in the academic year than this year’s meeting in April, he is requesting that subcommittees table their reports until the fall. Rod Warnick and the co-chairs asked for council members to submit their annual subcommittee reports early next fall. The Finance and Compliance Subcommittee meetings have been scheduled. Other subcommittees will be report soon and make their final presentation in the Fall Semester 2014.
V. **Nominating Committee**

Nelson Lacey asked for suggestions from the group’s council on the Nominating Committee for Secretary and Co-Chairs for the next Academic year 2014-15. Co-Chair Lacey noted George Richason has been charged with this task for the last 15 years to which George commented “Sooner or later, I’ll get this right!” George Richason volunteered that Bob Goodhue and he would once again step up to the plate as the nominating committee.

VI. **Report by the Athletic Director, John McCutcheon**

AD McCutcheon reviewed the following topics: NCAA regulations, unions, Gender Equity and Student-Athlete Welfare the NCAA student-athlete compensation debate, and conference realignments with the programs and with emphasis upon finding the football program the appropriate conference affiliation.

VII. **New Business**

- The following dates of the Fall Athletic Council Meetings will be held from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm in the Recreation Conference Room 117:

  - Friday, September 26
  - Friday, October 31
  - Friday, November 21
  - Friday, December 19

- Co-Chair Lacey thanked Tracy for Co-Chairing, Rod Warnick for his great work as Secretary to the Council, and Julie Sarsynski for her help in writing the minutes as well as the administrative support to the council. Co-Chair Lacey also wished Emily Hajjar great success after graduation. The Co-Chairs agreed that it would not be necessary to reconvene in May, but if the need does arise, they would call an impromptu meeting.

VIII. **Tour of the Football Performance Center**

John McCutcheon led a tour of the new Football Performance Center for all the Council Members. All members donned hard hats for the walk throughout the 55,000 square foot building. Joe Balzano, Project Manager and UMass Facilities Planning Department, helped conduct the tour. The tour highlighted the following areas:

- The Locker Room (120 Lockers)
- Sports Medicine Center
- Strength and Conditioning Center
- Football Office Suite & Team Meeting Rooms
- Team Auditorium
- Lobby/ Hall of Fame
- Terrace Overlooking the Field