University of Massachusetts
Athletic Council Committee Minutes
December 6, 2013
Recreation Center Conference Room

Committee Members Present:

Co-Chair N. Lacey, Co-Chair T. Schoenadel

Guests: G. Cannella, J. Sarsynski, J. Seguin, K. Subbaswamy
Absent: JC Schnabl

I. Call to Order
Co-Chair Schoenadel called the 3rd meeting of the Academic Year to order at 11:34 a.m. and welcomed guest speaker, Chancellor Subbaswamy. Co-Chair Schoenadel invited council members and guests to introduce themselves to the new members and guests.

II. Approval of the Minutes of October 1, 2013
Co-Chair Schoenadel opened the floor to discussion of the Athletic Council minutes from October 1, 2013. There being none, it was so moved by George Richason and seconded by Ed Ward to accept the motion. All were in favor of approving the Minutes from the October 1, 2013 meeting. The November Meeting had been cancelled.

III. Chancellor Kumble Subbaswamy
Chancellor Subbaswamy briefly addressed the Athletic Council on the unresolved issue concerning the football wrestling video. An advisory Subcommittee will be reporting to the Chancellor by mid-January and an attorney has been retained regarding this issue. Chancellor Subbaswamy is remaining completely neutral until all the facts are gathered by the subcommittee reviewing the video. The charge of the investigating committee is to maintain a high level of confidentiality for all student athletes during the interviews. Conference Realignment issues with the A-10 and the MAC were also reviewed by the Chancellor. The floor was opened to discussion from Council Members. The Chancellor praised the great job in galvanizing support and gathering alumni spirit for intercollegiate athletics and all campus wide events. He also praised Athletic Advancement that is ahead of the rest of the University with its fund-raising goals. A number of questions were fielded by the Chancellor in regard to the engagement of alumni and the university at the football games at Gillette and the benefits of our move to the FBS level.
IV. Summary of COIA (Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletic) Position on the NCAA

Ernie May distributed a report from the COIA, Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics, that calls for increased campus faculty engagement in athletic governance and asked for feedback from Council Members. Rebecca Spencer, FAR, stated COIA’s proposal of adding a new campus role, the Senate Athletics Representative (SAR) would be completely redundant to her role as the Faculty Athletics Representative. Included in Ernie May’s handout, was a letter from Michael Bowen, COIA Chair and faculty member at University of South Florida. The letter proposes additional deregulation and faculty engagement and to align more closely on departmental issue with our Faculty Athletic Representative.

Ernie asked the council to submit written statements to the three questions to the COIA’s letter: “1. Is your senate already playing a campus role approximating the COIA proposal? Has the Senate expressed a sense that its involvement with athletics is not adequate, or found it difficult to obtain clear information? 2. How naturally could your current campus structures accommodate some sort of senate committee or subcommittee comparable to what is termed an “Academic Integrity Group” in the COIA proposal? 3. Would any established links to other senates in the Mid-American Conference provide the basis for a conference network of senates sharing relevant information on athletics policy and implementation?”

V. Guest coach – Greg Cannella, Head Coach of Men’s Lacrosse

Coach Cannella gave an enthusiastic overview of the Men’s Lacrosse program, its Spring Schedule, his team’s roster, recruiting, and his optimistic vision for the Spring Season. Coach answered questions on signing period, UMass’s Lacrosse facilities and field surfaces needing complete renovations, TV Contracts and Streaming Live. A number of questions regarding the growth and impact of lacrosse and the facilities at UMass were discussed. Bob Goodhue, (Council Member and father of Reed Goodhue, Lacrosse Team Captain and goalie) thanked Greg Cannella for his leadership and level of integrity in leading UMass Lacrosse in Division I. Rod Warnick wished Coach Cannella luck with his upcoming season.

VI. Update of NCAA Division 1 Governance Planning - Spencer

FAR Rebecca Spencer reviewed the NCAA Governance Plan, its governance policy and the responsiveness of FAR’s collectively. Redesign of Division I organization of FARs will be reviewed at an NCAA meeting taking place in San Diego in January 2014 and the board will decide on whether a new policy will be instituted in April. Jaime Seguin asked about Fiscal and Academic Reporting. It is likely that a number of new proposals will be considered and voted upon at these meetings and an update on the results may be forthcoming at our next AC meeting.
VII. Report from the Athletic Department – AD John McCutcheon

- John McCutcheon reviewed the Capital projects underway – McGuirk Stadium, the Champions Center, and the Baseball field.
- He reviewed team performances for Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball. Men's Ice Hockey will be playing this weekend at Notre Dame.
- The University has contracted with the Bill Carr Sports Consulting Group for a thorough analysis of potential conference realignments including all costs/benefits of our sports current sports offering.
- The next MAC meeting in January 2014 in Cleveland.
- The Strategic Plan is underway with the AC’s Vision Subcommittee involved. Brian Harvey will also be directing the Strategic Planning Process and will likely have some interaction with the AC’s Vision Subcommittee.

New and Old Business:

The proposed Spring Athletic Council Dates are:
January 31
February 28
March 28
April 25

Ed Ward moved to close the meeting. George Richason seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:54 p.m.