University of Massachusetts
Athletic Council Committee Minutes
February 4, 2011
Boyden Building Conference Room

Committee Members Present:
Co-Chair Nelson Lacey
Co-Chair Rod Warnick

Guests: J. Sarsynski, E. Sortino

Absent: Robert Goodhue, T. Schoenadel, A. Sunshine, Glenn Wong

I. Call to Order: Co-Chair Nelson Lacey called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes of December 10, 2010

Two corrections were noted by Marilyn Billings: the first “explored” was deleted from the second sentence in the Update on Division I paragraph. “FBS Level” was changed to “Division I Level” in the last bullet item, same paragraph. It was so moved by George Richason and seconded Marilyn Billings. All members voted to approve the December 2010 Minutes with the noted corrections.

III. Agenda Items

1. Meet the Administrator Session

Joan Hopkins, Academic Support Services Department has been rescheduled to a future spring meeting.

2. Gender Equity and Diversity Report (Sortino and Warnick)

- Elaine Sortino distributed and reviewed all the following areas of the report
- Participation numbers for 2009-2010 were in compliance with Title IX
- Student-Athlete Minority Opportunity
- Student-Athlete Welfare Group, Diversity Committee, Exit Interviews
- Total scholarships including percentage and dollar breakdowns
- Athletic Department Staffing in terms of minority and gender
- Graphs rating a student-athlete survey on overall athletics experience at UMass including areas of facilities, academic support services, athletic injury
care and rehabilitation care, health services, media relations, sports nutrition, and effectiveness of NCAA Compliance meetings

3. Annual Report Review 2009-2010 (Lacey and Warnick)

- The following areas are in need of information: departmental highlights of student-athletes, team awards, achievements and the academic report from Linda Reid and Joan Hopkins. The final report is submitted at the Faculty Senate Meeting.
- Co-Chair Warnick opened the floor to any edits, changes, corrections on the draft of the Annual Report. Marilyn Billings asked that the report be streamlined to save on paper and she provided edits to the Co-Chair to assist in the completion of the report.

4. NCAA Audit Report (Sortino and Warnick)

- The NCAA requires the Athletic Department to compile a report every four years. Information is gathered from extensive interviews in a variety of areas, such as student athlete surveys, academic support, administrative and funding areas, alumni, and faculty. Elaine Sortino explained that even though this report is departmentally driven for submission for the NCAA Audit Committee. She has self-imposed a deadline of March 27, 2011 for this report to be complete.
- Co-Chair Warnick requested volunteers from the council to address the review of academic support services from the Athletic Council’s perspective. Jennifer Corriveau, Sarah Hayes, Steve Upton and Rebecca Spencer volunteered to meet with Co-Chair Warnick Friday, February 11, at 11:30AM in the AD’s Conference Room in the Mullins Center.
- Marilyn Billings will meet with coaches to gather information to review the questions posed in the NCAA Review process.
- Nelson Lacey will be meeting with Academic Support Services, University Administrative Staff and Athletic Department staff in the coming week to review the audit questions as well.

5. Conference Realignment Update (McCutcheon)

- AD John McCutcheon reported conversations on the realignment have been positive and all is progressing smoothly. There have been two site visits from the Mid-American Conference’s Presidents Council, their FAC, and several members of the MAC conference staff. The second of the two visits was a follow-up resulting in a favorable impression of the University to the President’s Council, who will meet on February 15, perhaps with a decision shortly thereafter.
- AD McCutcheon is also tracking changes in other conferences such as Conference USA and has been closely aligned with the changes within Temple University’s Football Conference.
6. Athletic Department Update (McCutcheon)

- The heavy snow has impacted all sports and been a great challenge for the facility crews trying to clear Garber Field and McGuirk Stadium for spring sport practices.
- Recruit signing period has been very encouraging.
- AD McCutcheon told of the sad news of Coach Dawley’s father passing away a result of shoveling snow as well as Coach Hodges’ wife passing away from a degenerative brain condition. “Life is precious folks, appreciate everyday”, John McCutcheon.
- Men’s Basketball has been all over the charts with wins and losses.
- The Leaman Legacy game is Sunday, February 13 at 4:00 p.m. and broadcast on CBS 3 Now.
- Spring softball is almost underway with warm weather meets in the South.
- Hockey is at Boston College Friday night and Merrimack Saturday night. Attendance has been very solid at Hockey games.

7. Pending Topics for Future Review

- The next council meeting is Friday, March 4, 2011 which will be a Communication Theme; John Hesslein from CBS Sports and Athletics Marketing and Media Relations’ Todd McDonald, Josh Maurer and Jason Yellin
- Outsourcing Study and Project Review
- Vision Study – Draft Form
- Chancellor may visit the Council in Spring

Spring Semester AC Meeting Dates: March 4, April 8, May 6