University of Massachusetts  
Athletic Council Committee Minutes  
February 20, 2013  
Recreation Center Conference Room

Committee Members Present:  
  T. Anderson, R. Goodhue, S. Hazen, R. Jones, E. May,  
  J. McCutcheon, G. Richason, JC Schnabl, T. Schoenadel,  
  S. Upton, P. Vittum, E. Ward, R. Warnick, G. Wong  
  Co-Chair Lacey, Co-Chair R. Spencer

Guests:   B. Albert, J. Sarsynski

Absent:   E. Briere, B. Johnson, A. Moore

I. Call to Order
Co-Chair Lacey called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed members and guests to the rescheduled council meeting originally scheduled 2/8/13 due to the winter blizzard. He thanked Council members for attending and welcomed Brett Albert from REMI. Co-Chair Lacey directed the members to the updated agenda handed out this morning.

II. Approval of the Minutes of December 2012
Co-Chair Lacey opened the floor to discussion of the Athletic Council minutes from December 2012. There being none, it was so moved by George Richason and seconded by Rod Warnick to accept the motion. All were in favor of approving the minutes from the December 2012 meeting as written.

Co-Chair Lacey called attention to the Annual Report and gave due diligence to Secretary Rod Warnick for his thorough revisions to this Annual Report. Rod Warnick reviewed each of the line change edited on pages 11 and 12 as well as the Visions Committee corrected as not meeting in 2011 - 12. He also noted that at the end of the report is a link for full Financial Statements of the Athletic Department for FY11 – FY12. Co-Chair Lacey asked for any other additions. There being none, suggested the council vote today contingent upon those corrections noted by Rod Warnick. Rod Warnick motioned to accept, Bob Goodhue seconded the motion. All members voted to accept the Annual Report with noted revisions. The Annual Report with noted revisions will be send to the Faculty Senate by Co-Chair Lacey.

IV. Brett Albert, Research Economist at REMI
Co-Chair Lacey thanked Brett Albert for researching and writing an economic analysis entitled, “A Comprehensive Approach to Valuing the University of Massachusetts Football Program.” Brett had presented much of the findings in this report in a previous presentation made available to members of the Ad Hoc Committee on FBS Football that had been withheld in the Interim Report as noted in the Faculty Senate minutes of the December 11, 2012 meeting. Today’s full report will be made available to the Athletic Council once a digital copy once it is forwarded from the REMI economist.
Brett Albert reviewed the following areas of the football program:

- the Academic and Athletic Value of the Football program to the University
- the Conference Value - analysis of long-term strategies between conference realignments and networks such as Fox and ESPN
- the Community Value of the program to the local community in terms of tourism revenue
- Brett Albert’s study is available on the REMI as a Webinar link (See http://www.remi.com/resources/presentations Select Miscellaneous 2012 for the webinar on “The Economic Impacts of College Football in America”).

V. Discussion of the charge from the Faculty Senate Rules Committee

Rod Warnick read the charge of the Faculty Senate Rules Committee that was handed out to the Council Members. Council Members deliberated at great length on the charge. Discussion included whether a response to the charge would be formally made by the Athletic Council and if so, what the response would contain. The discussion revolved primarily around the study and review of the report – “The Interim Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on FBS Football” and the charge of about six questions for response that came from the Rules Committee directed to nine different committees and councils of the Faculty Senate (See Charge from Rules Committee here). Considerable discussion surrounded the interim report and how it was used since it was presented and how it has been used in the media since its release. Rod Warnick reviewed six procedural points disregarded by the Ad Hoc Committee in their presentation of the Interim Report to the Faculty Senate. The Interim Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on FBS was never provided to the committee, discussed, or voted on before it was sent to the Faculty Senate. The Ad Hoc Committee never presented minutes that were reviewed or accepted. Rod Warnick cited Roberts Rules of Order that were disregarded by the Ad Hoc Committee in the manner the Interim Report was presented to the Faculty Senate. In addition, the following people were not notified about Ad Hoc Meetings held in the past month: Glenn Wong, John McCutcheon, Jaime Seguin, Rod Warnick, and Rebecca Spencer regarding the Spring Semester meetings and the opportunity to address the interim report and its findings in a regularly scheduled meeting of the committee. Ernie May agreed that is there were procedural mistakes then they should be brought before the Rules Committee and the Faculty Senate. Nelson Lacey expressed concerns about too much focus on the interim report and perhaps it would be best to focus on the charge. Ernie May felt the Athletic Council should at least focus on two questions from the Rules Committee charge – questions #5 and #6 which options are the best for UMass football.

Several members proposed to call for the disbanding of the Ad Hoc Committee based on its dysfunctionality and procedural issues. Bob Goodhue stated his angst with Ad Hoc Committee members speaking with the media – Boston Globe, WHMP, and NY Times “they didn’t like our results so they subjected UMass to public ridicule in Eastern Massachusetts”. Ed Ward stated that half-truths were reported in the Ad Hoc Interim Report. Pat Vittum stated the Interim Report should be struck from the record and the Rules Committee should consider termination of the Ad Hoc Committee in its entirety. Steve Upton stated “It may feel good to give a punch for a punch, but will likely lead to more bad press which the media would love to follow up on”. Glenn Wong stating “I’m not pleased to have my name on that report…they broke with process and procedure”. George Richason added, “We’ve got a football team out there trying to recruit”. The
resounding sentiment by Bob Goodhue and others is that the Faculty Senate and the Ad Hoc Committee has no authority over Athletics, but damage that they have caused the University at large is far-reaching. JC Schnabl indicated that two of the committees of the nine committees and councils charged with the review were in his area and that a press release had already been drafted regarding their support of the FBS Football decision as a response to the charge of the Rules Committee. Others indicate that the Rules Committee did not provide much background to the charge and thus is may be unlikely that all of the committees would in fact respond or be in a position to respond. Considerable discussion revolved around the response and a recommendation was read into the

Rod Warnick edited the following recommendation that the Council then voted on:

RECOMMENDATION TO THE RULES COMMITTEE AND FACULTY SENATE FOR ACTION.

We the members of the Athletic Council offer the following recommendation to the Rules Committee and the Faculty Senate regarding our study and review of the Interim Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on FBS Football as charged:

“Whereas the Athletic Council has discussed and deliberated upon the report and the charge, offers this recommendation that indicates that the Interim Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on FBS Football was not properly reviewed, deliberated upon or voted in a regularly scheduled meeting prior to submission to the Rules Committee for presentation at the Faculty Senate; that substantive information was withheld from review/deliberation and presentation to the Rules Committee and the Faculty Senate; that no minutes were approved or available for review; and that email correspondence and notification was most recently handled in such a manner as to exclude select members of the committee from participating; and that appropriate notification be released regarding the disregard for university and Faculty Senate governance procedures.”

Rod Warnick motioned that the Council accept this recommendation. Bob Goodhue seconded the motion. Recommendation passed Unanimously at 11:30 a.m. by all voting members in attendance – there were no negative votes or abstentions. The recommendation will be moved forward to the Faculty Senate and Rules Committee and Rod Warnick with the assistance of the Co-Chairs reviewed will move it forward.

Ernie May suggested that the deadline for reporting on the Interim Report and the Rules Committee charge would be delayed most likely.

There was supposed to be a response to the Rules Committee regarding the charge that the deadline was not reasonable but that the council would consider the issues raised in the course of fulfilling the regular duties and include their response in their Annual Report to the Faculty Senate.

With Co-Chair Lacey’s request still pending to remove the deadline associate with the charge, the Council agreed to meet on Friday, March 1, 2013 at 11:30 a.m. to continue the discussion on their response to the Charge which may include peer comparisons. The charge will continue to be discussed at the next meeting.
VI. Athletic Department Update – AD John McCutcheon
AD McCutcheon noted that even though the Ad Hoc Committee’s review is an academic process, it has had far-reaching negative impact on our teams, our administration and our fund-raising efforts. Some members of the Ad Hoc Committee have used it as a bully pulpit. That being said, AD McCutcheon stated the Athletic Department is diligently moving forward in FBS Football.

Men’s Basketball team are 16 – 8 having a very good season
Men’s Lacrosse had a great win over # 4 N Carolina last Sunday.
AD McCutcheon spoke on conference realignment issues within the Big East having a ripple effect for all other conferences. MAC annual revenue distribution has been increasing and that trend is expected to continue in the next few years under the new BCS playoff bowl structure.

Excavation and foundation will be started within a few weeks for the new Football North-End Stadium Building. Conceptual designs on the Champions Center Building are moving forward with the proposed site and entrance being across from the Recreation Center. John described its location and how the facility will also work to accommodate the interests of the campus community including access to the lower intramural fields, restroom facilities, a public entrance and corridor and its use for recreational and intramural play when available as a compliment to the Rec Center.

VII. Future Topics for Review and Updates

The committee discussed briefly the continuation of the charge from the Rules Committee and it will be the main topic of discussion at the next meeting.

George Richason moved to close the meeting. Rod Warnick seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.