I. Call to Order

Co-Chair Spencer called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. and thanked Council members for attending.

II. Approval of the Minutes of February 2013

Co-Chair Spencer opened the floor to discussion of the Athletic Council minutes from February 2013. There being none, it was so moved by George Richason and seconded by Pat Vittum to accept the motion. All were in favor of approving the minutes from the February 2013 meeting as written.

III. Discussion of the Faculty Senate Charge

The council deliberated at great length as to the charge, the request to withdraw the charge and the option to propose dismantling the Ad Hoc Committee completely. Discussion revolved around problems of the Ad Hoc Committee Report on FBS Football as delivered to the Faculty Senate such as: 1) the lack of due process in approving and considering the content of the report; 2) the misleading information provided in the report; and 3) the implication that the report had been endorsed by all members with individual names attached to the report. Ernie May stated that the Rules Committee does not enforce the conduct of committee or councils. It appeared through the discussion that the Rules Committee would accept a revision to the statement and a recommendation amendment to it. The following reflects the revised statement and the amendment to the Rules Committee:

REVISED RECOMMENDATION TO THE RULES COMMITTEE FROM THE ATHLETIC COUNCIL:

On February 20, 2013 the Athletic Council submitted to the Rules Committee the following statement:

“Whereas the Athletic Council has discussed and deliberated upon the report and the charge, the Athletic Council 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.”

We submit the following amendment to this statement:

“The Athletic Council recommends that the Rules Committee withdraw the charge for response to the Interim Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on FBS Football until the Ad Hoc Committee has had the opportunity to submit a revised interim report.”

This addendum to the previous comment was voted on with one noted abstention from Nelson Lacey, given his role as Co-Chair on the Ad Hoc Committee. The addendum was unanimously accepted with the noted abstention at 12:16 p.m., March 1, 2013.

Later, Ed Ward stressed that there needs to be a balanced approach to the interim report. The cost of the debt service was not accurate (is not money to be spent in this year and guarantees from future years are not likewise included) and the expense for external relations was not true/misleading.

IV. Report from Tim Anderson, Director of UMass Minuteman Marching Band.

Tim Anderson, Director of the Minutemen Marching Band, discussed the positive impact on the Marching Band with the move to FBS Football and the high visibility of the band performing at Gillette Stadium. His review also included contact with schools where football had been eliminated; the impact of those moves and the potential impact to appearances of the UMass Marching Band should such a move occur. A few examples:

- Northeastern and Vermont dropped football, but had little (NEU) or no (UVM) band prior.
- WKU marching band grew with the FBS move (Georgia Southern, Boise, UConn likewise)

Tim indicated that our Band has always been playing at big time levels (so no increase necessary) and is excited for our Football Team to be playing venues not available ever before that now open to us at the FBS level.

V. Athletic Department Update – AD John McCutcheon

AD McCutcheon reviewed conference realignment issues, NCAA regulations.

Lacrosse will be playing Brown at 2 pm at Garber Field.

Women’s and Men’s basketball and men’s basketball will be concluding their conference play soon and prospects for post-season tournament play are still unknown. Performance for both men’s basketball and ice hockey in the coming weeks will determine how long their seasons will be extended.

We need 166 more UMASS license plates to be sold before the plates are produced and part of the promotion is to include a special incentive for purchasing these plates to close
the deal for a set number of football season ticket purchasers or renewals.

Discussion of NCAA ‘deregulation’. John emphasized that we still have our own program and integrity to uphold so this will not change much for us. Glenn Wong added that these changes have nothing to do with academics where rules are, if anything, getting more strict.

VI. Future Topics for Review and Updates

The next Athletic Council Meetings are April 12 and May 17. Bob Goodhue moved to close the meeting. George Richason seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:51 a.m.