UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting – March 5, 11:30 a.m.


GUESTS: T. Drummond, J. Hopkins, M. Komer, E. Matz, J. Sarsynski,

ABSENT: C. Celona, Li Gu, E. May, T. Schoenadel, S. Schnoerr, E. Washington

Opening Remarks

- Co-Chair Barr called the meeting to order and had all guests and council members introduce themselves to one another. Carol Barr also apologized in having to leave the Council meeting at noon, explaining Co-Chair Warnick would be chairing the meeting at that point.

Approval of Minutes – February 5, 2010

- Co-Chair Barr opened the floor to discussion on the February Minutes after two corrections were made, one attendance error and the late Coach Pickett not being a member of UMass Hall of Fame. After the corrections to minutes were noted, it was so moved by George Richason and seconded by M. Billings to accept the minutes. It was so moved by the council to accept the minutes.

Meet the Coach – Ed Matz, Women’s Soccer

- Coach Matz was welcomed to the Athletic Council by Carol Barr who introduced Coach Ed Matz. Coach is the former women’s head coach with the Huskies (1999-2009) and had been with the Huskies men’s soccer program (1996-2004). Ed Matz had a combined record of 182-165-41 at Northeastern and was named 2009 CAA Coach of the Year. He will begin his first season in the fall of 2010 as head coach of the UMass Minutewomen and will be the fifth women’s soccer coach in history of UMass athletics.

- Coach Matz is very happy to have moved from the urban environment of Boston’s Northeastern to our beautiful Pioneer Valley with his wife and three daughters. He expects to build a winning UMass Women’s Soccer Program fostering a spirit of competitiveness. Coach drew the analogy of the current UMass women’s program being a great house yet needing some 2010 updates and improvements. Coach is looking forward to an outstanding 2011 team with the plan of bringing in three international
student-athletes that will in turn help to bring in the best of student-athletes from Massachusetts and the U.S. Coach Matz hopes to build strong alumni relations.

- Coach outlined shifting the team’s offense strategy from 4-5-1 to a 4-3-3 with three attackers and three midfielders. He noted that he recruits primarily from Club teams also outlining league play and the spring practice schedule. Co-Chair Barr explained the role of the Athletic Council as an advisory body to the Athletic Department.

**Annual Report Update – C. Barr/ Warnick**
- Co-Chair Barr presented the Annual Report to the Faculty Senate Meeting (Marilyn Billings presiding as the Senate’s interim president) on behalf of the Athletic Council. Having received no questions, the Senate meeting moved on to its jam packed agenda. The Annual Report of the Athletic Council was received and accepted by the Senate.

**Update Athlete Student Support Services -Joan Hopkins, Associate AD/ Academic Support**
- Joan Hopkins publically thanked the council for their vital role in helping bring Registration Appointment Modification to fruition and approval. RAM is a priority registration system that will be used for April pre-registration for fall courses. Co-Chair Barr explained that RAM helps not only student-athletes but all groups who are at a disadvantage in registering for courses due to their University obligations and activities. RAM helps student athletes to register for certain classes and times on order to accommodate their schedule of team practice, workout sessions and games.
- Matt Komer, Assistant Director of Academic Support Services, updated the council on SAM, the Student-Athlete Management System. SAM is a software tracking system that helps Academic Support Services track and monitor all student-athletes status and progress in the classroom, keep notes on those who may need help in tutorials, and track APR. SAM helps to eliminate a slow paper trail. SPARK, an online learning management system automatically sends emails to students.
- Tami Drummond, Assistant Director of Academic Support Services reviewed the Life skills programs and the CHAMPS program, Challenging Athletes Minds for Permanent Success, which is a point system to encourage friendly competition among the teams. The areas of competition are personal development, community service, academic progress and success. January’s winner of the CHAMPS trophy was Softball, with Women’s Crew and Field Hockey next in the runner ups.
- The Council was updated on the Flag system which helps monitor risk factors on incoming students. Such risk factors may be a low high school GPA, a low score on SAT’s, a learning disability, being a first generation college student, and low resources.

**Athletic Department’s Pregnancy Policy – John McCutcheon**
- AD McCutcheon briefly reviewed the policy which was distributed and overviewed at the last meeting by Elaine Sortino. The policy creates “a safe environment by
encouraging the student-athlete to voluntarily reveal a pregnancy in order for the University to provide optimal support for the physical and mental health of the pregnant or parent student-athlete and the unborn child with professional health care.”

- Co-Chair Warnick opened the floor to discussion and a vote. There being none, it was so moved by George Richason and seconded by Robert Goodhue. All council members were in favor of accepting the Athletic Department Pregnancy Policy. None opposed.

Subcommittee Reports and Assignment Reminders – AC Members
- Co-Chair Warnick requested that subcommittees submit their respective reports to the co-chairs by May 2010. Rod Warnick will email the subcommittee member listing.

Report from the Athletic Department – AD John McCutcheon
- Men’s and Women’s Basketball and hockey are currently struggling in their seasons.
- Spring sports are gearing up and underway.
- Outside of competition, a proposal on a reorganization of the Athletic Advancement area is being submitted to the Chancellor. The proposal outlines generating more income, outsourcing and broadcasting rights, and increasing corporate sponsorship from Boston and nationally.

Old Business and New Business for Athletic Council
- At the April 2nd meeting, SAAC Members will update the council with a SAAC report. Jeff Smith, Elaine Sortino and Joan Hopkins will also speak to the council; topics for review are the Athletic Department Injury Report and Athletic Training, Financial Aid and Athletics, and Athletic Department Vision.
- Remaining meeting Dates for spring are April 2nd and May 7th.
- Meeting was motioned to adjourn by George Richason, seconded by Bob Goodhue. Meeting adjourned at 12:34 pm.