University of Massachusetts
Athletic Council Committee Minutes
March 9, 2012
Boyden Building Conference Room

Committee Members Present:

N. Avanzato, E. Boucher, E. Briere, S. Hayes, N. Lacey, E. May
A. Normyle, G. Richason, T. Schoenadel, P. Vittum, E. Ward,
R. Warnick, G. Wong
Co-Chair N. Lacey, Co-Chair R. Spencer

Guests: J. Blihar, J. Sarsynski, E. Sortino

Absent: R. Anderson, M. Billings, S. Curran-Hays, R. Goodhue, D. Gore,

I. Call to Order
Co-Chair Lacey called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. and welcomed members
and guests to the March 2012 meeting. He thanked members for being flexible with
the earlier start of the meeting, allowing members to cheer for the Men’s Basketball in
the first round of the A-10 Championship. It is to be televised at noon today, live from
Atlantic City on CBS Sports Channel.

II. Approval of the Minutes of February 10, 2012
Co-Chair Lacey opened the floor to discussion of the Athletic Council minutes from
February 10, 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 February 10th meeting.

III. Report from the Athletic Department – Elaine Sortino, Associate AD/ SWA
Sports Wrap Up
- Women’s Basketball had a trying year due to several injuries resulting in a
  small squad. Coach Dawley has the building blocks in place for a strong
  future team.
- Women’s Swim Team finished 4th in the A-10. Women’s Diving is at Zones
  w/ McCullough Butler; Coach Mandy Hixon named A-10 Diving Coach of the
  Year.
- Men’s Swim Team won their 6th consecutive A-10 Championship with Coach
  Russ Yarworth’s truly outstanding leadership as Head Coach. Men’s Diving
  is 2-4-6 with several injuries.
• Ice Hockey is playing at 7:00 pm in Boston tonight.
• Men’s Lacrosse is off to a great season with 5 – 0 and the team is ranked 5th nationally.
• Women’s Lacrosse doing equally well at 5 – 0 – heading to VT tomorrow.
• Softball is 8 -7; several of their losses were to nationally ranked teams.
• Baseball opens this afternoon against #18 Central Florida.
• Coach Sortino answered several questions pertaining to her Softball Team and Temple leaving the MAC and its impact, Men’s Basketball A-10 Championship games, and the possibility of the Men’s Basketball team getting a bid for post-season play in the NIT.

IV. Meet the new Recreation Center Director – John Blihar
Co-Chair Lacey welcomed John Blihar to the Athletic Council meeting and explained the long term advocacy of the council for the new Recreation Center. The Council was so pleased with its ground-breaking. John Blihar, who had grown up in Pennsylvania, worked in the Northeast and has been at Florida State’s Recreation Center since 1991. John is delighted to be the Director of the beautiful new Recreation Center. He described the state of the art equipment within the stunning facility of UMass’s Recreation Center. John described the variety of the Recreation Center’s 85 classes held weekly which include Hip Hop, Spinning Class, Yoga, Pilates, Fusion and Piloxing with over 2300 students participating in these group fitness classes. Over 23,000 people have used the Recreation Center Facility since its opening. John answered several questions about custodial issues and keeping up with the high number of center users, security monitoring of the areas, the over 250+ student-staff employees, personal training programs, intramurals and club sports. He also covered the center usage times, summer hours and rates of only $40 and Health Plan reimbursements toward usage fees. John also answered questions about a future wish list for the Center which includes additions and expansions for a rock climbing wall and perhaps a pool (John described the 16-lane pool at Florida State).

V. Avery Normyle, SGA Senate, Athletic Pride and Development Select Committee
Avery Normyle, an SGA Committee member substituted for Emily who was delayed taking an exam. Avery gave the council a great overview of the Pride and Development Select Committee, which meets weekly. Emily and Avery, both strong advocates for UMass Athletics, had met with Rocko DeLuca, Associate AD for Development and members of the Athletic Marketing Department to discuss their student initiative to foster school spirit in support of UMass teams. They hope to combine the Mass Attack and Mullins Militia into one blanket group of a strong student fan group. Council members and students discussed prime seating incentives for the student fan group as well as other ideas to create excitement with UMass student fans. Also discussed were fun ideas for Homecoming.
VI. **New and Old Business**

The remaining spring Council meetings are April 6, 2012 and May 4, 2012.

Future agenda items include Campus Planning and the new Champions Center. The Athletic Council’s Finance Sub-Committee will meet at 9:30 in Boyden’s Conference Room before the next meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Co-Chair Lacey asked Ernie May to comment on the Ad-Hoc Football Committee. Ernie May and council members briefly discussed the football transition and the rationale behind the Ad-Hoc Committee.

Rod Warnick did submit the Annual Report last month to the Faculty Senate. Rod thanked Rebecca Spencer and Glenn Wong for their efforts in compiling and reviewing the Annual Report.

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