UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting – April 2, 2010, 11:30 a.m.


GUESTS: J. Hopkins, L. Reed, J. Smith


Opening Remarks

- Co-Chair Warnick called the meeting to order and had all guests and council members introduce themselves to one another for the guests to know and appreciate the members who serve on the Athletic Council.

Approval of Minutes – March 5, 2010

- Co-Chair Warnick opened the floor to discussion on the March Minutes and it was so moved by George Richason and seconded by B. Goodhue to accept the minutes which were approved unanimously.

Meet the Administrator – Jeff Smith, Associate Athletic Director Sports Medicine

- Associate Athletic Director Jeff Smith, Head of Sports Medicine and Athletic Training was welcomed to the Athletic Council by Rod Warnick who introduced him. Jeff has been with the University since 2002 and heads up a staff of six (6) full-time athletic trainers and three (3) graduate assistants. Two of these assistants will be graduating this year. Jeff also has sport program administrative oversight for Rowing and Track and Field Programs.

- UMass provides its student-athletes with four fully equipped athletic training rooms. The main treatment facility is in Boyden Gymnasium, with the other three athletic training rooms located in Curry Hicks Cage, Warren McGuirk Alumni Stadium and the William D. Mullins Center. The training rooms are available to student-athletes, who can receive treatment before, during and after practice or athletic competition. The Boyden Athletic Training Room is open from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for scheduled rehabilitation programs. These periods are typically arranged by appointment only and the team physicians and medical staff had regularly scheduled days of visitation for appointments and treatment of student athletes.

- Sports Medicine has just recently moved into the new expansion to athletic training space in Boyden Gym with the conversion of the old fitness center into an athletic training space, offices and a new locker room for women’s softball in this newly renovated space once occupied by the campus fitness facility that now has been relocated to the new Recreation Center. Some workout equipment from the old facility was passed onto the training staff for use in rehabilitation work for the athletes.

- The Sports Medicine Department also has two team physicians on staff – Dr. Little and Dr. Rouzier and two fellows from UMass Worcester – one serving last fall semester and one this spring semester. The Sports Medicine Department has had the services of four (4) orthopedic surgeons from the Hampshire Orthopedic Group including Drs. McBride,
and Kurtis. Dr. Wilburn the team chiropractor comes every Tuesday, a massage therapist, Karin O'Brien visits and trains staff in massage techniques, and Dr. Fournier serves as the certified pedorthist who works on athletes footwear and footcare for the teams. The program has also utilized an Acupuncturist, Dr. Grossman, from time to time as an alternative treatment method. Athletic Health and Wellness Program is headed up by Robin Harris and Bob Otrando heads up the strength and conditioning programs and manages the weight lifting room located in Boyden in the old gymnastics area. The Sports Medicine Program has also formed an Athletic Care Committee and Student Athlete Welfare Group to improve communication to red flag cases, focus on at-risk athletes and to improve the general health and welfare of all student athletes. These committees meet regularly to review caseloads and the status of injured and rehabilitating athletes.

- Sports Medicine has focused on some new programs over the year including emphasis on the Gasten Technique – more deep tissue and soft tissue massage techniques and now have four (4) staff certified in this technique. They have daily rehab programs operating from 7AM to 12 Noon and have moved all rehab services specific to physical therapy and other prescribed services here to Boyden and consulted directly with staff from Health Services. The department also prides itself in the academic approach to sports medicine and offers semester long internships for students. The department also collaborates with Kinesiology Professor Patty Freedson on research projects. This year the program had one of its interns fully certified and placed in a full-time program. Two interns have also advanced their education with one being accepted into Physical Therapy School and another into Physician Assistant School. The department is also a clinical site for students from Springfield College, Westfield State and Quinnipiac.

- A major interest of the sports medicine staff is education. The professionals on staff mentor sports medicine fellows, medical residents, athletic training students, scholar interns, and student assistants who are exploring the different careers that are a part of the sports medicine field. Education is provided through in-service presentations, attendance at continuing education programs, and hands-on experience. Special care is taken to provide a valuable learning experience without putting the student in a situation that they are not prepared or qualified to succeed, or compromising the student-athlete’s well being.

- Jeff also reviewed his responsibilities with Rowing and the boathouse project that is still in the works. He also spoke about the track and field meets including the hosting of the A-10 Championships this year at the new track complex.

- An Injury Report was also provided that focused on 1) Concussion Program and 2) Injury Types. Jeff included the assessments for concussions and the added assessment procedures and benchmarking of concussion incidents. Particular care is taken in monitoring these injuries, passing the PPE exam and receiving the doctor’s clearance before the athlete is allowed to return to practice and/or game play. The clearance to participate was discussed and reviewed and the conditions for season ending injury, medical hardship, and medical disqualification were discussed and reviewed. Special types of injury were also reviewed including ACL injury for female student athletes and new jump training programs to help prevent such injuries. Most of the ACL injuries are non-contact type injuries. The Athlete Health Enhancement program also helps to work with the injured athlete to deal with the mental aspects of injury and rehabilitation. For career ending injury, the Athletic Department maintains a $75K insurance policy per athlete and this will be increased to $90K per athlete for the coming year. Student athletes who experience career ending injuries are assured of scholarship aid through the contracted period and each athlete is counseled and rehabbed back into off-campus programs with all medical records and case work passed onto their home medical
services. The NCAA assures the student athlete of appropriate and extended coverage if needed.

- One question was the injury rate and the result of the new playing field surfaces installed in recent years. Jeff indicated that there appeared to be a decline in the number and severity of athletic injuries in recent years and some of this may be attributed to improved playing services but also to improvements in sport medicine techniques, training and rehab services of their department.

- After the AC Meeting, members were provided a tour by Jeff Smith of the newly renovated space in Boyden for the Sports Medicine Department.

Meet the Administrator – Linda Reed, Registrar’s Office

- Linda Reed of the Registrar’s Office has been here at the University for nearly 30 years and has worked on NCAA Compliance since 1987. Linda Reed reviewed here typical yearly schedule for certifying NCAA graduation rates, eligibility qualifications, and NCAA compliance issues for all student athletes. She works closely with the Athletic Department’s Compliance Office with daily contact with this office. She also attends monthly coaches meetings and the Northeast Regional NCAA Rules Compliance Meeting each year.

RAM Update Athlete Student Support Services - Joan Hopkins, Associate AD/ Academic Support and Linda Reed, Registrar’s Office

- Joan Hopkins publically thanked the council for its vital role in helping bring Registration Appointment Modification (RAM) to the implementation stage and highlighted the work that Linda Reed provides to the department. RAM is a priority registration system that was being used for April pre-registration for fall courses. RAM helps student athletes to register for certain classes and times in order to accommodate their schedule of team practice, workout sessions and games. The first set of student athletes to participate in this program occurred within the previous week. This first set consisted of student athletes who will be seniors in the Fall Semester 2010. As of the first day of registration, 91% of the 78 seniors eligible under the RAM system were carrying 12 or more credits and had completed their registration by 4PM of the first day of the registration period.

- Joan indicated that the next set of students who will be juniors and is set to start on the following Monday, April 5th when juniors and then sophomores will be registering. Student Athlete Services has been getting the word out to students who qualify for the RAM system and promoting the planning for procedures to have the academic course shopping cart ready prior to the designated registration time.

- Linda Reed reported that Disability Services and Commonwealth Honors College are also using the RAM system for their students.

Student Athlete Advisory Committee Report

- Jennifer Corriveau and John Ihne updated the committee on the SAAC activities over the past year. The SAAC Committee meets about twice monthly under the direction of Peter Montague. The purpose of the committee is to provide an update to all teams, improve communications, and to involve more student athletes in the student athlete experiences. Programs reviewed included: 1) Big Game attendance; 2) Brother/Sister Teams and involvement with “big game” activities; 3) SLAC Program – student leaders across campus program; and 4) A10 conference calls from SAAC at conference schools to discuss community services and committee programs and ideas. A new honor society for student athletes is also being formed by the SAAC and is called Chi Alpha Sigma. Additional programs coordinated through SAAC include: 1) Read and Rock Program; 2) Food Drives; 3) National Walk to School Day; 4) Toy Drives; 5) Bowl-A-Thon; and 6) Jump Rope for
Heart Program. Jen will also be attending the A10 SAAC Conference on April 23-25, 2010 in Pittsburgh, PA. Other items open for discussion included team representation on SAAC and the possibility of club team representation, the CHAMPS Program.

Search Committee Update on Women’s Basketball Coach Search

- No new news was available on the Women’s Basketball Coach search; however, it was reported that the committee and the search should be concluded within the coming next two weeks.

Subcommittee Reports and Assignment Reminders – AC Members

- Co-Chair Warnick requested that subcommittees present their respective reports to the Athletic Council at the May 2010 AC Meeting. Rod Warnick distributed the subcommittee member listing to all members present.

- George Richason indicated that the Finance Subcommittee would not be meeting for the Spring Semester due to the uncertainty in the budget climate; but the Athletic Department will continue to update the Athletic Council on the budget outcomes through the Fall Semester.

Report from the Athletic Department – Associate AD Jeff Smith

- Men’s and Women’s Basketball and Ice Hockey finished their seasons with each team participating in conference tournament play.
- Men’s and women’s swimming completed their season, the men’s team captured the A10 Championship and the women’s team placed third.
- Spring sports are all up and underway. Baseball is 1-2 in conference play. Men’s lacrosse is currently ranked #9 in the country and 1-0 in conference play. Women’s lacrosse is 5-6 and 2-0 in conference play. Softball is ranked #23 and holds a 19-7 record and 4-0 in A10 Conference play. Tennis is 10-6 and headed to the A10 Championship. Crew is off to defend the A10 Championships. Track will be at UConn and has a home meet this Saturday and will host the A10 Championships here at the new track facility in May.
- The External Relations and Athletic Marketing will be hosting national speaker, Eric Thomas to speak on the topic, “Life After the Game” and is expected to speak about success in academics, athletics and life after participation in college athletics. The talk will be held in the Campus Center Auditorium and is being coordinated by the Life Skills Program of the department.

Old Business and New Business for Athletic Council

- No old or new business was brought forward to the Athletic Council.
- Remaining meeting date for the spring semester is Friday, May 7th.
- Meeting was motioned to adjourn by George Richason, seconded by Bob Goodhue. Meeting adjourned at 12:57 pm.
- A tour of the Sports Medicine Department and Athletic Training renovated space was provided by Jeff Smith after the meeting in the basement of Boyden Gymnasium.

Respectfully Submitted by Carol Barr, Co-Chair; Rod Warnick, Co-Chair; and Pat Vittum, Secretary.