University of Massachusetts
Athletic Council Committee Minutes
April 12, 2013
Recreation Center Conference Room

Committee Members Present:

T. Anderson, E. Briere, R. Goodhue, S. Hazen, E. May,
J. McCutcheon, A. Moore, G. Richason, P. Vittum,
E. Ward, R. Warnick, G. Wong
Co-Chair N. Lacey, Co-Chair R. Spencer

Guests: M. Georgian, J. Sarsynski, J. Smith
Absent: J.C. Schnabl, T. Schoenadel, S. Upton

I. Call to Order
Co-Chair Lacey called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. and welcomed members and speaker Jeff Smith to the April 2013 meeting.

II. Approval of the Minutes of March 1, 2013
Co-Chair Lacey opened the floor to discussion of the Athletic Council minutes from March 1, 2013. With the one noted location change under Athletic Department Update – “Lacrosse will be playing Brown at 2 pm at Garber Field”, 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 March 1, 2013 meeting with the one noted change.

III. Jeff Smith, Associate Athletic Director/ Sports Medicine
Co-Chair Lacey welcomed speaker Jeff Smith who received his Masters of Exercise Science from UMass in 1993. Jeff reviewed concussion education and management including diagnosing and symptoms of concussions and brain injury. Jeff also discussed a number of preventative and safety techniques to avoid concussions, while circulating new helmet covers, kevlar inserts, and mouthpieces used by all student-athletes. He fielded a number of questions from Council members on how Sports Medicine has been examining and preventing concussions with student-athletes. Additionally, Jeff stated that concussion rates were reported in the range of approximately 35-40 per year. Return to play requires 24-hr symptom free and approved by physician.

IV. Updates and continued discussion of the Faculty Senate Charge for FBS Football:
* Motion to the Rules Committee: Co-Chair Spencer met with the Rules Committee in regards to the Council’s revised recommendation regarding the Rules Committee’s charge.

* Co-Chair Lacey reviewed the April 5th Meeting of the Ad Hoc Football Committee attended by Max Page, Nelson Lacey, Frank Hugus, and six others on the Ad Hoc Football Committee. Nelson stated the meeting had virtually no energy and the momentum of the Ad Hoc Committee had completely fizzled away. Discussion followed on the Council’s response to the Interim Report.

* Upcoming meetings will include the Joint Meeting between the Finance Subcommittee and the Ad Hoc Football Committee meeting at 10:00 AM prior to the last Athletic Council Meeting on Friday, May 17th.

V. University Strategic Planning- review attached document

Co-Chair Lacey read the following three broad goals outlined in the draft Strategic Plan—Phase I: Setting the Agenda which is the basic charge to Council and Committees for the University of Massachusetts.

1. Establish UMass Amherst as the destination of choice for the next generation of the Commonwealth’s high school graduates (pg. 6)
2. Establish UMass Amherst as the investment of choice in the next generation of the Commonwealth’s progress (pg. 17)
3. Mobilizing for Success (p. 29)

A discussion followed on dovetailing this strategic plan into improving the already distinctive quality of education at the University of Massachusetts. Sam Hazen and Bob Goodhue proposed convening a Visions Subcommittee Meeting to further these three goals so that the University of Massachusetts will continue to be a destination of choice.

VI. Reminder for annual reports from subcommittees

Subcommittee reports are due on May 17th – the last Athletic Council Meeting of the Academic Year.

VII. Report from the Athletic Department – AD John McCutcheon

Sports Wrap Up

• April 26th is the Official Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Football Performance Center and Press box Complex at 11 a.m. and the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Champions Center at 1 p.m.
• Construction will be fully underway with completion of the Football Complex slated for July 2014 and the Champions Center in September 2014.
• The UMass football team will once again field an Alumni Team as part of this season’s Spring Game that will be held Saturday, April 20 at McGuirk Stadium. Tee Shirts are being handed out in the Dining Halls to promote the Spring Football event.
- Baseball beat Boston College in the semi-finals in the Bean Pot and will play Northeastern for the Championship at Fenway Park.
- Men’s Lacrosse will be playing #17 Drexel at Garber Field at 3 pm tomorrow. Depending upon the outcome and other games, UMass may still be in the lacrosse conference playoffs.
- Women’s Lacrosse playing Temple this afternoon at McGuirk Stadium and could capture the A10 Championship with the opportunity to gain a high seed in the NCAA Tournament.
- AD’s are in the Conference Meeting mode for the next month with the MAC and the A-10.
- Conference realignment issues were reviewed involving the American Athletic Conference formerly the Big East, the Big 10, and the MAC.
- John thanked Glenn Wong for his dedicated and invaluable service to the Athletic Department. Glenn will be stepping down from his role with over 20 years of service as the Faculty Athletic Representative. Glenn thanked John and offered his help with the transition of the new FAR before travelling to Japan and Spain in spring of 2014.

At 12:40 pm, Rod Warnick indicated that a motion should go forward and be on the record formally thank Glenn Wong on behalf of the Council for his years of service to the Athletic Council and serving as the FAR, the motion was so moved by George Richason and Pat Vittum seconded. All council members were in favor of honoring Glenn Wong for his service as FAR and representation to the Athletic Council.

VIII. New and Old Business

The final spring Council meeting is set for Friday, May 17th to be held at 11:30 a.m. in the Recreation Center Conference Room 117. The Finance Subcommittee and the AH FBS Football Committee will hold a joint meeting just prior to the AC Meeting on that day.

George Richason moved to close the meeting. Rod Warnick seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.