University of Massachusetts
Athletic Council Committee Minutes
October 11, 2013
Recreation Center Conference Room

Committee Members Present:

D. Barstow, M. Georgian, R. Goodhue, E. Hajjar, S. Hazen, N. Lacey,
J. McCutcheon, G. Richason, L. Skesavage, E. Ward,
R. Spencer, P. Vittum, R. Warnick,
Co-Chair N. Lacey, Co-Chair T. Schoenadel

Guests: C. Carrens, J. Dietz, J. Sarsynski, J. Seguin

Absent: T. Anderson, E. May, A. Moore, JC Schnabl, S. Upton

I. Call to Order
Co-Chair Schoenadel called the 2nd meeting of the Academic Year to order at 11:35 a.m. and introduced new members to the council, UMass Alumni ’92 Diane Barstow and Women’s Soccer student-athlete and HRTA student, Lauren Skesavage. Co-Chair Schoenadel invited council members and guests to introduce themselves to the new members.

II. Approval of the Minutes of September 6, 2013
Co-Chair Schoenadel opened the floor to discussion of the Athletic Council minutes from September 6, 2013. There being none, it was so moved by George Richason and seconded by Bob Goodhue to accept the motion. All were in favor of approving the Minutes from the September 6, 2013 meeting.

III. Guest coach – Jim Dietz, Head Coach of Women’s Crew

Jim Dietz gave an energized and positive overview of the crew program, the new Boathouse and its dedication ceremony on September 8, 2013. Approximately 500 people attended the dedication and enjoyed the opening ceremony while crew alumni rowed across the river to celebrate the opening at the Boathouse. The beautiful new facility has been a huge morale boost for the entire rowing team – the radiant heat in floors helps the athletes to stretch out in the cold early morning hours before rowing on the river. The Boathouse facility will be a great help with recruiting and retention of top crew student-athletes. The seven foot weathervane is a beautifully crafted scull with rowers’ eyes bright and the new building proudly displaying the UMass logo that announces an arrival into a UMass area. Coach Dietz gave great thanks and praise to AD John McCutcheon and Jeff Smith for their perseverance and dedication to making this building a reality. It was a long road to realize this historical year – the UMass Boathouse will have a great impact on future generations for UMass Crew.
About 60 student-athletes will be competing tomorrow with the Head of the Housatonic tomorrow in Derby, Ct. The Seven Sisters Sculling Race will be this Sunday, October 13th on the Connecticut River.

Coach Dietz answered questions from council members regarding retention rates, scholarship, competition, equipment needs for the boat house, dock maintenance, economic impact of the facility and ability to host local and regional events and recruiting sources.

IV. **Guest Administrator – Cleve Carrens, Project Manager – Champions Center**

Cleve Carrens gave a detailed synopsis of the Champions Center and reviewed the graphics for planning and construction phases currently underway. The location for the Champions Center is to the South side of the Mullins Center across the street from the Recreation Center. The renderings covered all aspects of the Champions Center design – building style and limestone exterior, floor plans for placement of the Men’s and Women’s Basketball Coaches’ offices, team locker rooms, power lines, access and egress around the building and the design concept of the practice facility. The 2200 sq. ft. weight training area will be located in the south side looking out over the fields. The training area will include submerged treadmills, hydrotherapy stations, taping tables flanked by a warming station, a nutritional area as well as a film viewing room. Just behind a grand staircase will be a viewing area. Cleve Carrens reviewed steel and concrete work bids along with the timeline for completion of design and drawings. Cleve is planning for the Certification of Occupancy by the middle of January 2015.

V. **Ad Hoc Football Committee Update (Lacey)**

Co-Chair Lacey updated the council on the Ad Hoc meeting the Monday after the release of the Football training video. The committee reviewed implications of the video that has been a lightning rod issue. A member of the Ad Hoc Committee stated that he didn’t see much wrong with the video. The real charge of the Ad Hoc Committee is a financial review of Football - their October and November meetings will include a look at the latest budget data on Athletics and Football. Max Page and Nelson Lacey will then present the report to the Faculty Senate.

VI. **Status of Video/ Petition Investigation (Spencer)**

Faculty Athletic Representative, Rebecca Spencer reported that a committee is underway and will be thorough in their full review and report of the football video. This Committee’s charge is to review the video and surrounding circumstances as well as be prepared for any additional issues forthcoming. The committee will make recommendations to the Chancellor in terms of the student athletes’ health and welfare. Rod Warnick and Ed Ward said this method of training is quite common at other schools; however, careful review of all circumstances surrounding this video and the welfare of the student athletes must be taken into consideration.
VII. Report from the Athletic Department – AD John McCutcheon

- John McCutcheon reported on Division I AD’s meeting in Dallas, TX where NCAA governance/ restructuring was a primary topic.
- Sunday, October 13 a Celebration of the Life of Coach Elaine Sortino’s will be held at the Mullins Center at 1PM.
- Band Day (with over 3300 High School Band Members) will be Saturday, October 12 at Gillette Stadium with over 19,000 attending.
- Hockey plays at Boston University (ranked #19) tomorrow night, 10/11 and at UMass Lowell (ranked #1) Saturday night, 10/12. Hockey East didn’t give us an easy season opener.
- Fall Teams are plugging away and Winter Team Sports are about to get underway.
- John answered questions about Power Conferences vs. Non-conferences.

VIII. Committee Assignments for 2013 – 2014 (Warnick)

Rod Warnick discussed the open slots for chairs of the Subcommittees of Equity and Academics. Ed Ward will carry over as the Subcommittee Chair for Facilities and George Richason for the Finance Subcommittee. Student member Lauren Skesavage volunteered to be on the Academics Subcommittee while student member Emily Hajjar volunteered to be on the Equity subcommittee. Tracy Schoenadel volunteered to chair the Equity Subcommittee. Steve Upton will be stepping down from the Athletic Council so there will be need a local alumni representative. Jim Sullivan from Florida hasn’t attended a meeting for years nor has responded to correspondence on attending council meetings which has created another open slot even though we have filled one of these slots with Diane Barstow joining the Athletic Council. The need for an Academic Subcommittee Chair remains. Rod Warnick suggested JC Schnabl would be a great Chair of the Academic Subcommittee and will email him the request.

New and Old Business:
The remaining Fall Meetings are:
November 8 (subject to change given potential conflicts)
December 6

George Richason moved to close the meeting. Bob Goodhue seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.