Committee Members Present:


Guests: J. Sarsynski, J. Seguin, E. Sortino, R. Whitehead


I. Call to Order
Co-Chair Lacey called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m. and welcomed members and guests to the December meeting.

II. Approval of the Minutes of November 4, 2011
Co-Chair Lacey opened the floor to discussion of the Athletic Council minutes from November 4, 2011. It was so moved by George Richason and Ed Ward seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the minutes from the November 4, 2011 meeting.

Council members and guest introduced themselves and briefly described their role at the University.

III. Report from the Athletic Department –AD McCutcheon
Fall Sports Wrap Up
- Cross Country finished strong with Women’s Cross Country 10th, Men’s Cross Country finished 5th.
- Men’s Soccer 12th
- Women’s Soccer 2nd in A-10 - most improved under new Coach Ed Matz
- Women’s Swim Team set four new school records.

Coaching Changes – Football
AD McCutcheon briefed the council on the search process of narrowing the candidate pool from over seventy-five candidates with a consultative committee of six people. AD McCutcheon praised the energy, drive and character the new Head
of Football, Coach Charley Molnar, who is now actively recruiting and putting his staff together.

Transition Planning and Update
AD McCutcheon noted the Division I Football Program Transition has now formally begun with Coach Charley Molnar’s hire. John welcomes Coach Molnar and his family as he and his staff will lead the football program into the first year of FBS Football as members of the Mid-American Conference. January 6th will mark the beginning of a marketing campaign that will be in full swing throughout the next year.

Hiring Update – Head of Media Relations
John Sinnett, Interim Associate AD for Media Relations has been hired as the new permanent Associate AD of Media Relations. AD McCutcheon noted that John Sinnett had compiled the great biographical profile on Coach Molnar that had been distributed to all the council members and will do a great job in this role.

Winter Sports Update
Men’s Basketball (7 – 3) has had an up tempo style of play; Women’s Basketball is 1-3 and has building blocks in place for future wins. Hockey beat BC who had been #1 when UMass beat them.

IV. Gender Equity Report – Elaine Sortino
Council members received a copy of the Gender Equity Report. Elaine Sortino briefed the members on the top highlights of the report which include:

• Participation numbers for Academic Year 2010-2011 were in compliance with Title IX. The Overall total of male and female minority student-athletes on aid is 85, which represents 23%.
• Scholarships dollars were as follows:
  Males: $3,593,845 (54.2%)
  Females: $3,039,434 (45.8%)
• The Student-Athlete Welfare Group consisting of a broader group of staff with the Athletic Department meets monthly to address and discuss all issues related to our student-athletes.
• The Diversity Committee is made up of an administrator, coaches, and student-athletes whose charge is to advise the staff and coaches on programs that promote an inclusive and diverse environment. Exit Interviews are conducted on line with student-athletes who have exhausted their eligibility to compete. Of the 114 student-athletes who have completed eligibility, 85 have completed their Exit Interviews which reflects a 74.5 % participation rate.
• The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee met 10 times during the academic year and were involved on many levels of campus and community service, enhancing the total student-athlete experience.
V. **Update on discussion and Motion Passed by the Faculty Senate on December 1 - Ernie May**

Ernie May briefed the council on the December 1, 2012 meeting of the Faculty Senate’s Panel Discussion Meeting concerning the budget and funding related to the Athletic Department. Both Ernie May and Ralph Whitehead from the Faculty Senate’s Rules Committee expressed their concerned and critical view of the FBS Football transition on behalf of certain members of the Faculty Senate including Max Page, Dick Bogartz, Michael Sugerman. Ernie distributed an article from The Chronicle of Higher Education on the Penn State Football Scandal. An engaged discussion followed by members of the council in defense of the UMass Football Transition. Some members felt their time and objectivity in evaluating all aspects of the Athletic Department and the Transition to FBS Football was being questioned and discredited by the Faculty Senate in light of the Faculty Senate trying to establish more oversight committees, duplicating Council members’ efforts.

VI. **New and Old Business**

Upcoming Business – Co-Chairs are working on the Annual Report which will be sent to the Faculty Senate in February or March. Co-Chair Rod Warnick will be on sabbatical next semester. Tentative Dates for the Spring Council Meetings are:

- February 10, 2012
- March 9, 2012
- April 6, 2012
- May 4, 2012

On advice of Council member Glenn Wong, it was noted that Friday, March 9 is the week of the A-10 Men’s Basketball Finals at Atlantic City and Hockey East Quarterfinals.

Ed Ward moved to close the meeting. George Richason seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m