I. Call to Order

Co-Chair Spencer called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. and welcomed members to the Rec Center meeting room and guest to the December 2012 meeting. All members introduced themselves to guest, John Blihar, Director of the Recreation Center.

II. Approval of the Minutes of November 2012

Co-Chair Spencer opened the floor to discussion of the Athletic Council minutes from November 2012 meeting. Approval of the minutes were so moved by George Richason and seconded by Ed Ward to move to accept the minutes as presented. All were in favor of approving the minutes.

III. Gender Equity, Minority and Student-Athlete Welfare Report – Elaine Sortino

Elaine Sortino, Senior Women’s Administrator of the Athletic Department, presented the Equity, Minority Opportunities and Student-Athlete Welfare Report for 2011-2012. This report included a presentation of the participation, student-athlete minority opportunity, scholarships, student-athlete welfare, the SAAC and the Athletic Department Staffing statistics.

The findings highlights included:

- Roster numbers of 2011-2012, based on the first date of competition, totaled 359 men (49.1%) and 373 women (50.9%) and this compares to the UMass Office of Institutional Research and report to the EADA that there were 10,122 (51%) and 9,697 females (49%) full-time UG students enrolled at UMass for the Fall Semester 2011.

- Total minority percentage of student-athletes for 2011-2012 was 16.1% and when defined by gender. The total was 23.3% (84 male) and 9.1% (34 female) racial minority student-athletes.
• There were 195 male student athletes receiving aid in 2011-2012 of which 75 were minorities for a total of 38.4% and on the female side there were 175 receiving scholarships of which 24 were minorities (13.7%).

• Overall the total of male and female minority students athletes on aid was 99, representing 26.7% of all who received aid.

• Amount of scholarship aid provided to student-athletes for 2011-2012 was 56.95% for males and 43.95% for females. This change was expected as the department plans the transition into D1A (FBS) football.

• The Student Athlete Welfare Group continues to meet on a monthly basis, the Diversity Committee was developed to continue to address diversity issues and evolved a new experience called the “Amazing Race” to enhance and foster these issues.

• Exit interviews were conducted on all student athletes who completed or exhausted their eligibility with 80 of 103 student athletes (77.6% response rate) participating.

• Exit interview ratings from senior student athletes of the Athletic Department and its operations were positive. The senior exit survey revealed high ratings for facility safety, game times, access to academic support center and services, access to sports medicine and supportive role of sports medicine personnel. The findings revealed positive ratings on all 49 dimensions of the Athletic Department Services and opportunities. The overall experience indicated that student athletes would choose UMass again if recruited again and would encourage others to attend UMass if recruited.

• The Athletic Department staffing for 2011-2012 consisted of 149 full and part-time employees of whom 19 were minorities (12.8%) and women comprised 36.9% of the staff. In 2011-2012, 23 full time positions were filled in Athletics and 19 were male, 4 were female (17.3%) and 4 male minorities (17.3%). Fifteen of the positions were for coaches of whom 3 were female (20%) and 4 (26.7%) were minority males.

Elaine Sortino noted that there was nothing dramatically different with the report for 2011-2012 and the expectations regarding the difference in scholarship aid was expected and a plan was in place for the phase-in for scholarship aid with a 5 year plan of action and extended out to 7 years. Questions revolved around participation numbers, scholarship aid and the safety of the practice facilities.

George Richason moved that the report be accepted, it was seconded by Ed Ward and the motion accepted.

IV. Athletic Department Update – AD McCutcheon

AD John McCutcheon spoke at length to the Council on the issues of conference realignment. Basically this discussion revolved around a number of different scenarios
and what may or may not happen and how speculative such proposed realignments are. No new announcements were noted for UMass.

A substantial part of the extended discussion then proceeded to the Faculty Senate Report of the Ad Hoc FBS Football Committee Report as presented on December 11th to the Faculty Senate by Co-Chairs Nelson Lacey and Max Page and the resulting publicity and quotes from the report regarding the numbers and conclusions made in the report.

Nelson Lacey indicated that the report reflected a focus on the costs of FBS football as the main emphasis of the report; but members of the committee also indicated that the report did not reflect the full discussion of the meetings over the course of the year, nor did the report presented to the Faculty Senate reflect the vote of the committee, the minutes of the committee of the four meetings held, and other important information withheld from the Senate on issues and matters reviewed/discussed or attended to during the course of the Spring and Fall Semesters including an important webinar that was shared with the committee on the “Economic Benefit of College Football” presented by the REMI of Amherst, MA. The result of the presentation of the Report of the Ad Hoc on FBS Football Committee delivered to the Faculty Senate as an interim on-going report was that a group of faculty senators, lead by co-chair, Max made an attempt to suspend the rules of the Faculty Senate to pass the following resolution: “to immediately reverse the decision to move to FBS Football and to direct the Rules Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee to work with the Chancellor and President to develop a plan for withdraw from FBS Football to presented to the full Faculty Senate at its first Spring Semester meeting on January 31, 2013.” The vote did not carry the two-thirds majority necessary to the rules and the proposal did not reach the floor for a vote.

Questions were posed to Ernie May, Nelson Lacey and Marilyn Billings about process and protocol for committees and reports. It was suggested that the Rules Committee will send the report onto other committees for comments and additional review by various committees and councils including the Athletic Council by the Rules Committee as the next phase in this process.

V. Report from Campus Recreation and Director John Bilhar

John Bilhar, Director of the Campus Recreation presented a report of the programming and use of the Recreation Center. John indicated that the UMass Campus Recreation Center won the 2012 Facility of Merit presented by Athletic Business.

Some of the highlights from John’s report included:

- 27,694 participants in intramurals comprising 874 teams
- 26% female participation compared to 15% average nationwide
- doubling of online hits to IM Leagues up from 150K hits in FY 12 to 372K hits in FY 13
- 54.360 participants in fitness and wellness with 2,716 classes and over 112K web hits
- Over 1000 personal training sessions in FY 13
- 2 UMass Student Employees were awarded GA positions at other Universities
• Overall, the Rec Center received 570K visits in the past year and conducted 18K tours
• Purchased $40K of new equipment and Spent $25K for signage, audio and security cameras
• Implemented monthly meetings with Physical Plant and a $80K budget allocation for restoration and on-going maintenance issues which includes annual refinishing of gym floors
• For member services, 526K web site hits and 6,146 membership were sold and a new web site design has been initiated and a risk management and emergency action plan have all been completed.
• With aquatics, participation is up nearly 2K to 13.5K participants. All ADA lifts and pool compliance issues resolved in including AEDs for the pools
• The facility employs 250 student workers and a new orientation and training program has been implemented and groundwork for a Student Advisory Council (SAC) is now underway to serve as a liaison between the professional and student staff
• Concerns for the department included capacity use, the opening and impact of the nearby 1500 bed CC complex and the extension of service and maintenance issues to meet the on-going demand.

Questions regarding future expansion, service hours, and on-going maintenance issues were discussed.

VI. Future Topics for Review and Updates

Rebecca Spencer thanked Marilyn Billings for her service on the Athletic Council as this is her last meeting on the council.

Rebecca Spencer also announced the meeting dates for the Spring Semester 2013. They are:

February 8
March 1
April 12
May 17

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45PM by motion of George Richason and seconded by Ed Ward.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rod Warnick
Secretary