

Athletic Council Minutes

January 25, 2008

Members Present: Bridget Berube, Aaron Burns (ASNMU), Robert Fleming, Jim Gadzinski, Ken Godfrey, Amelia (Mimi) Marschall (SAAC), Julie Rochester (Chair), Mike Rotundo, Brandon Sager, Steve Specker, Mike Truscott, Renxin Yang

Members Excused: Jim Anderson, Dave Faiella

Members Absent: Dennis Stanek, Cheryl Teeters, Jon Teichman,

Permanent Guest: Chris Greer, Dean of Students

Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by chair Rochester.

1. **Approval of Agenda (with additions)**
2. **Approval of December 7, 2007 Minutes (Rotundo/Sager)**
3. **Guest Presentations** – None.
4. **Chair's Report** (Rochester)
 - 4.1 **Committee on Compliance Report** – No report.
 - 4.2 **Executive Committee Report**
 - 4.2.1 **January 18, 2008 Meeting** – The committee met to put together the AC meeting agenda and are working on the exit interview instrument. Rochester compiled questions from various other campuses and exec committee members are to review.
 - 4.3 **Committee on Sportsmanship Report** – Although the group has yet to meet, Godfrey talked about his attendance at a conference session dealing with sportsmanship. He commented that we are much better off than some other campuses.
5. **Athletic Director's Report** (Godfrey)
 - 5.1 **PEIF "Flood"** – On Tuesday, January 22, a pipe burst on the second floor of the PEIF and flooded a good portion of the building. The women's basketball coaches and locker room had the most problems and they were temporarily relocated. Clean-up is continuing with attention to detail regarding mold, etc.
 - 5.2 **Travel Concerns** – Godfrey voiced his concerns about winter travel and teams on the road.
6. **Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) Report** (Marschall) – Wednesday night the "volunteer auction" was held in conjunction with ASNMU. Coaches and ASNMU reps were auctioned and \$1.042 was raised. Half of the funds are devoted to ASNMU's Child Care Fund and the other half SAAC donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.
7. **ASNMU Report** (Burns) – See SAAC Report.
8. **Old Business**
 - 8.1 **Exit Interviews/Survey** (Rochester) – No report.
 - 8.2 **NCAA Legislation** (Rochester) – A handout was provided and a review of the legislation process and results was conducted.

- 8.3 **Recommendation to President Wong Regarding Single Course Offerings** (Rochester) – The list of single-time course offerings has been produced and Rochester will be bringing the recommendation to the full committee to seek support. If approved, the recommendation will go jointly to Dr. Wong and Dr. Koch.
- 8.4 **NCAA Sports Wagering Study** (Rochester) – Two teams have been selected to complete the survey. Rochester has already administered the instrument to the volleyball team and will be working to complete same with the soccer team.

9. New Business

- 9.1 **NCAA Convention Report** (Rochester/Godfrey/Berube) – The three AC members, along with Steve Reed, participated in the convention. Each presented information on various sessions they attended:
- 9.1.1 **Grade Point Averages of Athletes versus In- or Out-of-Season** (Rochester) – A copy of the study was passed around, but, basically, the report concluded no discernable difference between GPA in- or out-of-season.
- 9.1.2 **Athletics Connecting with Student Affairs** (Rochester) – Will follow-up with Chris Greer regarding approaches identified.
- 9.1.3 **Student Body Attendance at Athletic Events** (Godfrey) – Clearly, it is a problem nationwide. As an example, Godfrey cited another school that regularly sells 10,000 season tickets to basketball and only 20% of the students attend games. Discussion also centered on how student apathy doesn't only affect athletic events, but other events.
- 9.1.4 **Millennial Generation of Students** (Berube) – Additional ideas into how and why this generation of students perform they way they do in the classroom, interpersonal communication, etc.
- 9.1.5 **Academic Progress Reporting** (Berube) – Ideas to collect and present data for all sports in all semesters was cited as a possible plan for NMU.
- 9.2 **GLIAC Meeting Report** (Rochester) – At the NCAA Convention, the GLIAC Meeting was held. Issues discussed included an expansion of the conference office (trying to add an assistant commissioner) and the current Commissioner's eminent retirement (Tom Brown).
- 9.3 **Assistant Football Coaches Position Openings** (Rochester) – There are two openings and the search committee – Rochester is a part of the committee – will begin to review applications next week.
- 9.4 **NMU Student-Athlete Eligibility Update** (Berube) – The NCAA eligibility process works as follows. (NMU's proficiency policy may, and is, much stricter than the NCAA requirements.)
- ◆ If a student passes (D- or better grade) at least six (6) credits in the fall semester, they are eligible to compete in the winter semester.
 - ◆ Students must complete at least 18 credits in the academic year (fall and winter), and at least 24 credits in a calendar year, to be "certified" as academically eligible for the following year.
 - ◆ This year only one (1) NMU athlete, out of a total of 289*, was proven to be academically ineligible.
 - ◆ The aggregate GPA for all athletes for the 2007 Fall Semester was 3.06 (higher than the general student population).
 - ◆ Athletes averaged 14.05 credits completed in the semester (also higher than the general student population).
 - ◆ Forty-three (43) athletes were named as Academic All-Americans after the fall.
 - ◆ Forty-three percent (43%) of all athletes made the Dean's List this past fall (3.25 GPA in at least 12 credit hours).

*There are 289 students that actually compete in athletics, but some are on more than one team. If each "athlete" is counted by team, with some being counted twice, the number is 354.

- 9.5 **PEIF Flood Update/Locker Rooms** (Godfrey) – See AD Report.

10. Open Discussion/Good of the Order

- 10.1 **Up-Coming Athletic Events** (Godfrey) – Saturday is “Super Saturday” with both basketball teams competing in the late morning and early afternoon and hockey taking the ice in the evening.
- 10.2 **Recommendation(s) for Guest Speaker(s)** (Rochester) – A list of the coaches that have not yet presented to the AC was developed. Rochester will be inviting these coaches to upcoming meetings.
- 10.3 **YouTube Video with NMU Student Athletes** (Rochester) – Discussion of athletes in videos on YouTube was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next scheduled meeting: **Friday, February 15, 2008, 10:00 a.m., 3301 Hedgcock**

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Gadzinski
Athletic Council Secretary