

Athletic Council Minutes

September 21, 2007

Members Present: Jim Anderson, Bridget Berube, Robert Fleming, Jim Gadzinski, Ken Godfrey, Julie Rochester (Chair), Mike Rotundo, Steve Specker, Dennis Stanek, Jon Teichman, Mike Truscott

Members Excused: Dave Faiella, Renxin Yang

Members Absent: Brandon Sager, Cheryl Teeters

Guests: Bernie Anderson, Head Football Coach; Chris Greer, Dean of Students (Permanent Guest)

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by chair Rochester.

Introductions – Introductions were made by all members present and Rochester distributed AC binders.

- 1. Approval of Agenda (with additions)**
- 2. Approval of April 20, 2007 Minutes (Anderson/Rotundo)**
- 3. Guest Presentation – Bernie Anderson, Head Football Coach**

Coach Anderson provided a handout and spoke briefly about the team and the start of the season (0-2). He also commented on the football budget, efforts to raise funds, and the cost of the new weight room and voiced two concerns: a) athletes having to miss practice time because of required courses scheduled between 3 and 6 p.m., and b) his displeasure with how the Academic Proficiency Policy (athletes dismissed because of poor grades).

4. Chair's Report

- 4.1 Committee on Compliance Report** – Rochester reviewed the new bylaws in respect to the membership and role(s) of this standing committee. Discussion followed regarding how often the group should meet; Godfrey suggested 1 to 2 times per semester and no objection was raised.
- 4.2 Executive Committee Report** – Rochester reviewed the new bylaws in respect to the membership and role(s) of this standing committee and asked for AC members interested in filling three seats on the committee – Teichman and Truscott volunteered and Rochester believes Teeters will also be willing to serve.
- 4.3 Committee on Sportsmanship Report** – Rochester reviewed the new bylaws in respect to the membership and role(s) of this standing committee. Godfrey noted Dean Ellis (Men's Basketball) and Jenny Ryan (Cross-Country) are two coaches interested in serving and that he will find a third coach. Stanek, Specker, and Fleming all volunteered to serve as AC representatives.
- 4.4 FAR meeting with coaches/student-athletes** – Rochester reported that she is in the process of meeting with all teams and coaches and that the response has been good.

- 4.5 **Periodic Presentations by Coaching Staff/Student-Athletes** – Beginning with Coach Anderson today, at least one coach and/or athletic team representative will be invited to meet with the AC.
- 4.6 **Athletic Council Presence/Attendance at Athletic Events** – Rochester encouraged AC members to attend as many contests as possible throughout the year and talked about organizing some gatherings for AC members before/during/after games. She also will ask if AC members can be invited to sit in the President's box at a football game and in an open box at a hockey game.
- 4.7 **Operating Code/Bylaws/Policies & Procedures Revisions** – A copy of the AC by-laws is included in the AC binder distributed at the beginning of the meeting. Members were asked to review the document again and be prepared to voice any concerns at the next meeting.
 - 4.7.1 **Athletic Council Website** – Rochester noted that the binders will be replaced in the future by an AC web site. Berube will assist.
- 4.8 **FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium Nov. 8-10** – Rochester is planning to attend the Association's annual meeting in Baltimore.
- 4.9 **On-line Faculty Summit on Intercollegiate Athletics** – Rochester distributed a handout inviting members to go on-line for this free web cast, sponsored by the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics.
5. **Athletic Director's Report** – Godfrey reported on a number of items:
 - 5.1 **Fact Sheet for AC Members** – Godfrey will be providing a "fact sheet" regarding the Athletics Department (e.g., scholarships allowed/used) for AC use.
 - 5.2 **GLIAC News** – Mercyhurst and Gannon will be leaving the GLIAC and Tiffon will be added.
 - 5.3 **Budget** – Although more funds were provided for travel, it is still not enough to cover all travel. Godfrey cited bustline charges and the price of gasoline as key factors.
 - 5.4 **Academics** – The department is again promoting athletics and the academic success of athletes. Godfrey noted an aggregate GPA of over 3.00 for NMU athletes.
 - 5.5 **Community Connection** – The department is trying to entice more fans by again working with the community.
 - 5.6 **Ticket Sales** – Ticket sales, even for hockey season tickets, is down.
 - 5.7 **Sports Hall of Fame Banquet** – October 5th.
 - 5.8 **PEIF Pool** – Situation is still not settled; recommendation from contractors is to build a new pool.
 - 5.9 **SID Report** – Godfrey will provide the report:
 - 5.9.1 **Soccer** – Hosting Northwood on Friday at 5 pm and SVSU on Sun at noon.
 - 5.9.2 **Volleyball** – Hosting Mercyhurst on Friday at 7 pm and Gannon Saturday at 4 pm.

5.9.3 **Football** – Hosting SVSU at 7 pm on Saturday.

5.9.4 **Cross Country** – Placed 1st and 6th in two recent meets.

5.9.5 **Other Sports** – The department is continuing to look into adding women's fast-pitch softball as a varsity program.

6. **Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) Report** – Berube reported that the first meeting of the year is scheduled for next week and that a representative to the AC will be named at that meeting.

7. **Sports Information Department Report** – This portion of the agenda will be reported during the Athletic Director's report.

8. Old Business

Exit Interviews/Survey – Rochester distributed a hard copy, and will forward an electronic copy, of the Student Athlete Exit Questionnaire. Discussion followed and members are asked to review the document and be prepared to comment at the next meeting. Also, at the next meeting, the AC will continue discussions on: a) providing the survey for all athletes each year, or only those exiting; b) the possibility of an electronic survey; c) the possibility of doing this at the last team meeting of each sport; and d) others.

9. New Business

9.1 **Electronic Monthly Newsletter/Advising Notes** – Rochester plans to send out information to faculty to improve their understanding of athletics and athletes. She may use ACAC's *Advising Notes* as one vehicle to get the information out.

9.2 **Follow up – "Intercollegiate Athletics – Mission and Major Responsibilities" Document** – Tabled for a future meeting.

9.3 **Student-Athletic class/practice conflict (develop survey)** – Rochester will be discussing the situation at the next Deans, Directors, and Department Heads meeting in October.

9.3.1 **Presentation to Deans/Department Heads/Directors** – See 9.3 above.

9.4 **Community Engagement and Athletics** – Tabled for a future meeting.

9.5 **NCAA Legislative Process and Update (Bridget Berube)** – Tabled for a future meeting.

9.6 **Student Class Absence Policy** – Coach Yoder (Volleyball) made an error when establishing travel times for this season and has requested the AC revise the volleyball schedule from 9.5 days missing class to 10 days (the allowable class days missed for volleyball is 10 days). **Gadzinski moved, Fleming seconded to allow the change from 9.5 days to 10 days; the motion was unanimously passed.**

10. Open Discussion/Good of the Order

Future Agendas and Meetings – Stanek asked that an agenda and a reminder of meetings be sent prior to each AC meeting so that members could be better prepared. Rochester will be doing so each month.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Next scheduled meeting: **Friday, October 19, 2007, 10:00 a.m., 3301 Hedgcock**

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Gadzinski
Athletic Council Secretary