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## **Athletics Council Meeting Minutes, February 27, 2009**

Athletics Council

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Athletic Council – Friday, January 30, 2009  
Minutes

Attendance: Judy Chivers, Mo Cooper, L. Chrissy Davis, Steve Fortson, Bob Grant, Jeff John, Sheryl Kent, Mary Kenton, Dan Krane, Lawrence Mrozek (for Rochelle Gardner), Kelsey Miles (for Anthony Smerk), Milan Milosevic, Sonny Osborne, Amber Peplow, Roderick Perry, David Reynolds, Jackie Schetter, Suzanne Semones, John Sheidler, Mike Sincoff, Beth Sorenson, and Charles “Chuck” Willis. (Voting members absent: Elizabeth Hardin of the Retirees Association, Karen Lahm of COLA, Matt Lawless of BSOM, Lawrence Prochaska of CoSM, Jessica Weidert VP of SAAC, and Martyn Whittingham/Anthony Teasdale of SOPP.)

1. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 8:07 a.m. by Chair Sincoff.
2. Chair Sincoff announced that Anthony Teasdale would be replacing Martyn Whittingham as the Athletics Council representative from the School of Professional Psychology.
3. Approval of Minutes of January 31, 2008 – Minutes were approved by acclimation in response to a motion made by Mary Kenton and seconded by John Sheidler.
3. Men’s and Women’s tennis coach Sean McCaffrey (accompanied by team captain Nick Camilleri) addressed the Athletics Council. He related that both teams (seven women and ten men) started practices on January 15 at the indoor facility at the Five Seasons and that the heart of the schedule against Horizon League opponents was just ahead. Coach McCaffrey started coaching immediately upon graduating from college and came to WSU from a Division III school in Vermont. The men’s and women’s teams have been traveling together to reduce costs. Athletic Director Bob Grant commented that the past several years had been turbulent times for tennis at WSU – Nick Camilleri interacted with four different coaches during his four years on the team. It was also noted that Kelsey Miles (SAAC representative to the Athletics Council) is also a starter on the women’s tennis team.
4. Committee reports:
  - Steering Committee: Chair Sincoff reported that the steering committee had met only once since the last meeting of the Athletics Council to discuss the agenda of this meeting of the Athletics Council.
  - Academic Affairs: (Chair Karen Lahm was not present). Judy Chivers informed the Athletics Council that she would like to add APR status to the quarterly grade reports received by the Athletics Council in place of the statistics sheet that has been provided. Dan Krane suggested that it might be helpful to see both in the next quarterly report before the Athletics Council decides if the statistics sheet was no longer necessary. Judy Chivers also reported that the Academic Affairs committee would be meeting in the Spring quarter to discuss fifth year scholarships.
  - Constitution and Bylaws: Dan Krane reported that this committee had not met since the last meeting of the Athletics Council. The Athletics Council by-laws require that nine representatives be replaced next year and that nominations for Vice Chair would be taken at the April 24 meeting of the Athletics Council (the by-laws require that the Vice Chair be a faculty member and member of the Athletics Council).

Student Welfare and Diverse Student Athlete Advocacy: Steve Fortson reported that these committees were in the process of collecting data from exiting fall sport student athletes and that both committees had met. The Student Welfare committee was working on an abbreviated survey (all surveys are already available on WebCT). Trainer Tony Ortiz is no longer with the Athletics Department and it is proving difficult to find a replacement for him. Steve Fortson also answered several questions regarding the drug testing program for WSU student athletes (pertaining to their cost, frequency and general results).

Gender Equity: Mary Kenton reported that this committee had met three or four times in the month of February. One meeting included a tour of facilities for men's and women's teams. The committee is still in an "information-gathering" mode and will start report writing and the generation of a new five year plan (the current one is expiring this year) in the Spring quarter.

Chair Sincoff observed that May 15 is the last date for Athletics Council committees to submit their annual reports (so they can be submitted to the Faculty Senate and other bodies as required by the Athletics Council by-laws).

6. Faculty Athletic Representatives report: Steve Fortson told the Athletics Council that the NCAA has asked for a survey on substance abuse to be delivered to three teams. Beth Sorenson has been talking with the WSU Faculty Senate regarding pregnancy policies for non-student athletes that would parallel those in place for student athletes.
7. SAAC – Kelsey Miles (on behalf of SAAC president Anthony Smerk) told the Athletics Council that SAAC had delivered teddy bears to Childrens' Hospital and that all teams are currently completing community service projects (like working in soup kitchens and reading at local hospitals). SAAC is also working on a May Daze booth and hopes that it will be as successful as last year's was.
8. Athletic Director, Bob Grant told the Council that it was not a good time for athletics programs in general in light of the current economic downturn. He suggested that significant cuts were likely to be coming to the WSU Athletics Department in the next few weeks. Two things that he has perceived to be bright spots in the past quarter were: 1) the academic recognition ceremony held at the half time of a men's basketball game and, 2) the Athletics Council-hosted pre-game lecture series (which he observed were extremely well-attended, well-received and appreciated by members of the WSU administration). He also commented that attendance at men's basketball games was up an average of 700 people per game this past season – only 200 a game now behind Horizon League leader Butler – even though he was disappointed that student attendance was not good after the winter break.
9. Mo Cooper gave an update on the performance of winter quarter teams and commented on the status of the on-going search for a men's Soccer Coach.
10. Other business.
  - The Athletics Council pre-game lecture series was determined to have been a success. The series of three talks this year was run as a pilot. It will be run again next year – perhaps

with talks prior to all home men's basketball games on Saturdays. Discussions will be held over the summer break regarding lessons learned from this year's three talks (Council members should contact Dan Krane if they would like to participate in those discussions or have input in some other way).

-- Chair Sincoff reminded the Athletics Council that WSU President Hopkins and Horizon League Commissioner Jon LaCrone would both be attending the April 24 meeting of the Athletics Council.

-- The next meeting of the Athletics Council will be held on Friday, April 3 in the Atlantis Room of the Student Union.

11. Meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.