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Athletics Council Meeting Minutes, April 3, 2009

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Athletic Council – Friday, April 3, 2009
Minutes

Attendance: Judy Chivers, Mo Cooper, Rob Cooper, Trevor Doll, Steve Fortson, Bob Grant, Sara Hill, Jeff John, Sheryl Kent, Mary Kenton, Dan Krane, Karen Lahm, Amber Peplow, Roderick Perry, Lawrence Prochaska, David Reynolds, John Sheidler, Mike Sincoff, Anthony Smerk, Beth Sorenson, Anthony Teasdale, and Charles “Chuck” Willis. (Voting members absent: Elizabeth Hardin of the Retirees Association, Matt Lawless of BSOM, Milan Milosevic of Student Government, Sonny Osborne and Suzanne Semones representing Classified Staff, Jessica Weidert VP of SAAC.)

1. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m. by Chair Sincoff.
2. Chair Sincoff introduced and welcomed Sarah Hill (Athletics Department Budget Director), Anthony Teasdale (replacing Martyn Whittingham from the School of Professional Psychology), and baseball coach Rob Cooper.
3. Approval of Minutes of February 27, 2009 – John Sheidler asked that two incorrect dates in the minutes be corrected. Jeff Johns (Beth Sorenson seconded) moved that the minutes be approved as amended and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Baseball coach Rob Cooper told the Athletics Council that the baseball team was at the halfway point of its season and was currently in second place in the Horizon League. He further commented that the team this year was “young” and introduced senior Jeff Mercer (a UD transfer) to the Athletics Council. Coach Cooper reported that the baseball team had visited the World War II Museum during a recent trip to New Orleans to play top ranked Tulane and that a WSU faculty member gave them a memorable tour. He felt that playing top ranked teams helps prepare the baseball team for Horizon League games and also gets them in a better position to perform well in the event that they qualify for play in an NCAA regional series at the end of the regular season. Athletic Director Bob Grant pointed out that Rob Cooper is a “paradigm of the model for new coaches at WSU” and that “If all fourteen of our coaches were Rob Coopers we’d have no worries.”
4. Trevor Doll, Director of Compliance for the Athletics Department, gave a presentation on NCAA compliance issues. He suggested that members of the Athletics Council (who all qualify as WSU “boosters”) should call him at 775-2830 and “ask before you act” so as to avoid sanctions to the institution for violations of NCAA rules.
5. Athletic Director, Bob Grant told the Council that he felt three things have changed in the past three years, plus or minus 18 months, for Wright State Athletics: 1) the Pavillion (made entirely without state funds and providing much better offices for Athletics Department staff and much better recruiting opportunities for all sports) had “bled every single donor dry”, 2) there has been a philosophical shift in the use of scholarship dollars – in the past about \$600,000 of what was available would not be used but that has now been reduced to approximately \$100,000 as coaches are being encouraged to fill their rosters and be as competitive as possible, and 3) the Athletic Department has severed ties with an external marketing and sales company which resulted in WSU not getting any of between \$200,000

and \$400,000 in revenues last year (as part of that severance agreement). Those three things have converged to put the Athletic Department in a difficult financial situation such that cuts are imminent. Athletic Director Grant observed that some of the impending cuts were likely to be fairly painless but that some will be very painful. Discussions that followed highlighted that partial scholarships offered to student athletes generate approximately \$1,000,000 in additional revenues to the university (students who receive them are not likely to have attended Wright State University if they had not been offered those scholarships). Mary Kenton also pointed out that symbolic things (like the men's basketball team not going to a post-season tournament which they would have had to pay to play in) are important given the current problems with the nation-wide economy.

6. Committee reports:

Due to the length of discussions earlier in the meeting, Chair Sincoff asked that committee reports (including those by the Faculty Athletics Representatives and the SAAC Representatives) be given at the next meeting of the Athletics Council and asked if any committee chairs wanted to bring anything to the attention of the Athletics Council prior to that. Mary Kenton, chair of the Gender Equity committee announced that that committee had been very active in the winter quarter and that it had decided to not prepare a new five-year plan before the Athletic Department budget had been finalized – hopefully in early April. Chair Sincoff also reminded committee chairs that annual reports of their committee's activities should be submitted prior to Friday, May 15 (so they can be submitted to the Faculty Senate and other bodies as required by the Athletics Council by-laws).

7. Rod Perry gave an update on the performance of spring quarter teams and commented on the status of the on-going search for a men's Soccer Coach (candidates would be interviewed on campus the following week).

10. Other business.

-- Chair Sincoff reminded the Athletics Council that WSU President Hopkins and Horizon League Commissioner Jon LaCrone would both be attending the next meeting of the Athletics Council on Friday, April 24 in the Atlantis Room of the Student Union.

11. Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.