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Athletics Council Meeting Minutes, April 24, 2009

Athletics Council

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Athletic Council – Friday, April 24, 2009
Minutes

Attendance: Judy Chivers, Mo Cooper, Steve Fortson, Bob Grant, Jeff John, Sheryl Kent, Mary Kenton, Dan Krane, Karen Lahm, John LeCrone, Amber Peplow, Roderick Perry, Lawrence Prochaska, David Reynolds, John Sheidler, Mike Sincoff, Anthony Smerk, Beth Sorenson, Anthony Teasdale, and Charles “Chuck” Willis.

1. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m. by Chair Sincoff.
2. Approval of minutes of April 3, 2009 – John Sheidler (Karen Lahm seconded) moved that the minutes be approved and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Chair Sincoff introduced John LeCrone, commissioner of the Horizon League, to the Athletics Council. Commissioner LeCrone told the Athletics Council about his background (including his being a native of Vandalia, experience as a baseball player and MS in Education/Sports Administration). He is in his 17th year with the Horizon League and feels that the League is in an excellent position and has progressed dramatically during his tenure (the League was originally more than \$1 million in debt and how consistently has operating surpluses and guaranteed distributions to member institutions that offset \$52,000 annual membership dues). He proceeded to answer a series of questions posed by the Athletics Council.
4. Chair Sincoff then introduced President David Hopkins to the Athletics Council. President Hopkins told the Athletics Council about his background (including his participation as a basketball and baseball player at Wooster College and degrees in Physical Education and Math). He revealed that the strongest influences in his life have been coaches and commented that he very much appreciates the value of the student athlete experience. One of the things he learned most from his own experience as a student athlete is the importance of bringing people together and creating something great as a team – egos are lost and teams want to accomplish things that are greater than what could be done by any individual. President Hopkins stated that priority of the Athletics Council must be student welfare and that it should continue in its efforts to make WSU the most innovative institution in Ohio both through incremental innovation and game changing innovation (citing the work of Beth Sorenson regarding pregnancy policies for student athletes and the Council’s pre-game lecture series as examples). He proceeded to answer a series of questions posed by the Athletics Council.
5. Nominations for the Vice Chair of the Athletics Council were opened. Jeff John and Mike Sincoff was both nominated by Dan Krane. Karen Lahm was nominated by Beth Sorenson. Drs. John and Lahm accepted their nominations (Sincoff declined) and agreed to provide brief biographical sketches to the Steering Committee prior to the next meeting of the Athletics Council when an election would be held.
6. Chair Sincoff reported that he had not yet heard from any of the constituencies that needed to appoint representatives to the Athletics Council for terms beginning in the fall quarter of

2009. He would like new members of the Council to be able to attend the last regularly scheduled meeting of the Council on May 29, 2009.

7. Committee reports:

Steering Committee: Chair Sincoff reported that the steering committee had met only once since the last meeting of the Athletics Council largely to discuss the agenda of this meeting of the Athletics Council and to prepare lists of questions for Commissioner LeCrone and President Hopkins that they could review prior to their attendance at this meeting.

Academic Affairs: Karen Lahm informed the Athletics Council that fifth year scholarship applications were significantly lower this year (both in terms of dollar amount and the number of applications) due to quicker graduations by student athletes and an usually large number of red shirted student athletes (113 this year versus 151 last year). The APR report was provided by Judy Chivers and she also reported that study tables for student athletes would be moving from the library (to accommodate the consolidation of the Fordham medical sciences library with the Dunbar library).

Constitution and Bylaws: Chair Sincoff proposed two sets of changes to the Athletics Council's by-laws: 1) change the language that suggests that representatives to the Athletics Council are "elected" or "appointed" to simply "selected" to reflect differences in the process in different constituencies; and 2) the addition of language that allows representatives to the Athletics Council to designate non-voting substitutes for meetings that they are not able to attend. The proposed changes were briefly discussed and will be further discussed as old business at the May 29, 2009 meeting of the Athletics Council. The specific changes that were proposed are attached to these minutes.

Student Welfare and Diverse Student Athlete Advocacy: Steve Fortson reported that these committees were discussing the implications of the expiration of the University's current five year plan for athletics. Much of those discussions has revolved around finding ways to expose young members of the local community to sports such as golf, tennis and volley ball that do not have good track records of recruiting minority participants. The hope is that Wright State student athletes will be able to serve as ambassadors and discussions have focused on what criteria would be used to measure success (i.e. the composition of WSU teams? the effort expended in recruiting?) and such details will be incorporated into the University's next five year plan. It was noted that the Athletics Department had one fewer trainers than it should and that exit interviews of graduating student athletes were still ongoing. Athletic Director Grant commented that changes to the exit interviews needed to be implemented in that the information that was being collected was not sufficiently timely or useful.

Gender Equity: Mary Kenton reported that this committee had had been meeting consistently and will wait until July 1 when new budget information would be available to make formal recommendations regarding a new five year plan for athletics at Wright State University. She commented that the committee had seen some improvements in spending trends and recruitment but that many of the things spelled out in the expiring plan had not been accomplished. She also reported that for the first time in the University's history it would not be in compliance with the NCAA's requirement for balance in the number of male and female student athletes at an institution (there were

currently 43 fewer female than male athletes at Wright State) and that it was also not in compliance with funding balance requirements (13% less had been spend on women's sports than men's sports and only a 1% difference is allowed). She felt that both disparities needed to be resolved quickly due to an NCAA recertification visit in the near future.

8. Chair Sincoff reminded 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).
9. Athletic Director Bob Grant briefly reported that two of six candidates for the men's soccer coach position who had visited campus had been eliminated from further consideration and that the vacancy should be filled in less than a week.
10. Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Proposed Changes to Athletics Council's Constitution and Bylaws
April 24, 2009

1.A.2: In line 1, change "appointed" to "selected"

1.A.3: In line 1, change "appointed" to "selected"

1.A.4: In line 1, change "elected" to "selected"

1.A.4: In line 3, change "elected" to "selected"

1.A.5: In line 1, change "appointed" to "selected"

1.B: Current language:

The procedure for election of the college/school representatives shall be as follows: Prior to the beginning of the spring quarter in which a college's or school's elections are to be held, the Chair of the Athletics Council shall notify the Dean from each college/school having a vacancy. The Dean or faculty shall then nominate from the ranks of their college's or school's full-time faculty at least two persons. The faculty members of that college or school shall vote for one of those nominated and the person with the greatest number of votes shall be elected.

Replace current language with:

The procedure for selection of the college/school representatives shall be as follows: Prior to the beginning of the spring quarter in which a college's or school's selections are to be made, the Chair of the Athletics Council shall notify the Dean from each college/school having a vacancy. The Dean or faculty shall then select the new representative by vote or appointment.

1.B.E: Current language

Members who do not attend at least three regularly scheduled Athletics Council meetings during a given academic year will be considered to have vacated their position on the Athletics Council. In the event of such circumstances, the Steering Committee may declare a vacancy and notify the constituency whose position has been vacated that a replacement should be elected or appointed to complete the original member's term.

In line 4, replace "elected or appointed" with "selected"

Add two new sentences at end of modified current language:

Members who are unable to attend a regularly scheduled meeting may provide a substitute; however, the substitute will be non-voting. Members who provide a substitute will not be penalized for lack of attendance.