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## **Athletics Council Meeting Minutes, September 25, 2009**

Athletics Council

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**Athletics Council Meeting**  
**September 25, 2009**  
**Minutes**

1. Meeting called to order at 8:03 am by AC President Dan Krane.
2. Chuck Willis moved for approval of agenda
  - a. Judy Chivers 2<sup>nd</sup> that motion.
3. Dan Krane welcomed new representatives to AC and read AC Constitution
4. Guest Speaker - Head Soccer coach Bryan Davis visited the Athletic Council and spoke about how good he feels with the changes in the program since his arrival at WSU. He mentioned his vision of soccer being about creating a great college experience and building a legacy here at WSU. He stated that he is currently working to improve the overall GPA of the team this academic year. Coach Davis also informed the AC that WSU Men's Soccer game attendance is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the Horizon League.
  - a. Bob Grant, WSU Athletic Director, mentioned that Coach Davis brings an infectious positive energy to our Athletic Staff and is a thrill to have aboard. Bob also mentioned that former WSU Soccer Coach Greg Andrews was a huge supporter of Bryan Davis.
  - b. Beth Sorensen asked Coach Davis how is his budget structure and how the smaller budget affected the team. Coach Davis responded that he has to be creative with his resources and he has to do more fundraising and cut corners, while committing to do things the right way.
5. Committee Appointments
  - a. Steering Committee
    - i. Chairperson- Dan Krane
    - ii. Responsibility is to oversee budget
    - iii. Plan AC meeting
    - iv. Appoint chairs to standing committee
    - v. Has specific membership to committee
    - vi. Next meeting on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Athletic Office Conference Room
  - b. Academic Affairs Committee
    - i. Chairperson – Karen Lahm
    - ii. Responsibility is to review academic issues with athletes
    - iii. Committee reviews GPA reports submitted by Judy Chivers
    - iv. Committee oversees 5<sup>th</sup> year senior athlete program
    - v. Committee reviews APR which is due 6<sup>th</sup> week of Fall Qtr.
6. Constitution and Bylaws
  - a. Chairperson – Larry Prochaska
  - b. Committee oversees modifications of constitution and bylaws

7. Student – Athlete Advocacy Committee
  - a. Chairperson – Steve Fortson
  - b. Committee prepares annual report for level of diversity within WSU athletics
  - c. Committee evaluates NCAA 5 year diversity plan
  
8. Student – Athlete Welfare Committee
  - a. Chairperson – Steve Fortson
  - b. Committee developed during last Division I certification
  - c. Committee oversees Student-Athlete exit exam
  - d. Committee oversees Drug Prevention Program
  - e. Committee oversees Sports Medicine report to discover any trends of injuries
  
9. Gender Equity Committee
  - a. Chairperson – Mary Kenton
  - b. Committee is to prepare a new 5 year report for certification
  - c. Committee needs a female student athlete
  
10. Ad Hoc Committees
  - a. Dan Krane asked the AC to create two ad hoc committees
    - i. Larry Prochaska motioned for approval and Amber Peplow 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
  
11. 1<sup>st</sup> Ad Hoc Committee: Pre Game Lecture Series
  - a. Chairperson - Beth Sorensen
  - b. Prior to home basketball games this lecture offers educational light to community.
  - c. This lecture also brings faculty and students to games while promoting academics
    - i. Beth Sorensen mentioned she would like to examine things that went well for the Lecture Series last year. She also asked do we still want just 3 lecturers and if there were any incentives to get student athletes and parents to attend?
    - ii. Dan Krane questioned who will be the speakers and how the AC could possibly generate revenue at the Pre Game Lecture Series?
  
12. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ad Hoc Committee: Faculty Encouraging Attendance at Games
  - a. Chairperson- Jeff John
  - b. Faculty to promote student interest in Athletic events
    - i. WSU Athletic Director Bob Grant shared his strategies on attendance which includes ongoing Raider Pack promotions. Bob mentioned that the Nutter Center has a little over 10,000 seats and having only 5,000 people in attendance makes the Nutter Center look empty still. Bob stated that WSU Basketball attendance is constantly being compared to UD, Duke, North Carolina, etc; however, in the Horizon League other teams envy our attendance. Bob went on to say that he has seen attendance reports of 600 to 700 students attending each home game but they are just not sitting in the student section. Bob is currently researching ideas being used by pro sports teams. Bob has also implemented student outreach by hiring a business student (part-time) to enhance WSU Athletics presence on

facebook, twitter, and email blast. Bob feels that it is also that our Men's Basketball continues to be successful. Bob stated that the Athletic Council can be a great resource and the Athletic Department is open to hearing any new ideas that the AC has. Bob also mentioned that we have an ESPN game on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> versus Cleveland State University which will provide WSU great exposure but the students are gone.

### 13. Promoting Student Interest

- a. Jeff John recommended that the AC should attempt to get the WSU Faculty involved and prepare some strategies for that. Jeff stated that those strategies could possibly include approaching each department to be more proactive or just adding schedule cards in every mailbox.
- b. Mo Cooper suggested that the Athletic departments Facebook representative could use a quiz or survey to encourage students to say who favorite professor is and as a result of the survey every winning faculty/staff member receives a gift at the Men's Basketball game.

### 14. Faculty Athletic Representatives (FARs)

- a. Dr. Beth Sorensen and Dr. Steve Fortson are the WSU FARs
  - i. Faculty Athletic Representatives are individuals who are mandated by the NCAA to bridge the gap between athletics and academics. These individuals negotiate academic problems for student athletes as well as negotiate faculty academic problems with athletics. The Faculty Athletic Representative is an appointed position by the WSU President.
  - ii. The objective for FARs, put in place by the late NCAA President Myles Brand, is to carry out a very effective plan for student-athletes to graduate. The NCAA is doing a great job of holding athletes accountable. The NCAA Interim President is Dr. Ish. Philosophies are different in each division and FARs keeps an eye on how WSU applies to that philosophy. FARs also looks for ways to improve on a national level for our athletes and academic programs.

### 15. Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

- a. Nick Camilleri- President
  - i. Nick announced to the AC Council that the first SAAC meeting will take place on October 15, 2009. Nick mentioned that he has already met with last year's SAAC President Anthony Smirk about duties and goals for the upcoming academic year. Nick reflected on his summer experience at the Horizon League SAAC meeting. He was able to network with other Horizon League SAAC representatives while doing volunteer activities. He feels he will be able to implement some of those experiences here at WSU. Nick also discussed a lot of programs being cut in athletics; however, he hopes to promote more fundraising methods to combat those cuts.

### 16. WSU Athletic Director

- a. Bob Grant discussed the many changes involved with the WSU Athletics Department Org Chart. This is a result of coaches retiring, coaches moving to bigger schools, and the addition of new coaching staffs. Bob went on to mention budget cuts and what the athletic department could do to reduce spending. He says he spent countless hours attempting to evaluate what WSU Athletics could cut without affecting student-athletes. Next, Bob spoke about the WSU Athletic Equipment Room and its transformation of staff. Three individuals are retiring and taking the severance pay. The three individuals had over 100 years of experience between them. Bob says he is exploring the idea of hiring 1 full time employee and 1 graduate assistant to save money. Bob stated that WSU Golf coach position has been made a part time position to save money, as well. This is standard in the Horizon League. Bob discussed how all of WSU sports budget adjustments are in line with the rest of the Horizon League schools. Bob was sad to say that we had to cut travel from cheer and dance. After continuous research, Bob says that WSU was one of the few departments that funded cheer and dance. Bob provided the following information in reference to budget cuts:
  - i. Sion Brinn (Swimming and Diving coach) is being creative after large cuts to his budget
  - ii. WSU Athletics was sharing a box office position with the Nutter Center and it has now been eliminated
  - iii. WSU Athletics cut summer school and it's now a case by case
  - iv. Exploring options to save us a substantial amount of money
  - v. Cut Men's Outdoor/Indoor Track.
  - vi. Downgraded Chris Collins position and made it a 75% position
  - vii. Plan on cutting back scholarships in certain sports over 2-4 years and witness the savings over time.
  - viii. Focusing on roster sizes, travel sizes, recruiting budgets
    1. Out of state recruits cost more, so all coaches are looking to recruit in state.
  - ix. Eliminated 2 staff positions
    1. Sports Information and Event Management position
      - a. It came down to cutting programs or positions that have redundancy.
      - b. Bob says it was not an easy decision and not a good time.
      - c. The Nutter Center is now doing all operations for free.
      - d. On another note, morale is very good in department.
- b. Athletic Department Positives
  - i. Season tickets renewal is up 90%
  - ii. Fundraising picking up
  - iii. Not for Profit program
    1. This program is going to non-profits and offering chance to sell season tickets and keep half of the proceeds.
  - iv. 1,200 degrees were sent out by the university this year and they all included 1 free game ticket.
  - v. All coaches are doing individual fundraising

- vi. Bob Grant, Mo Cooper, Linda Garza (new softball coach), and donor are traveling to Butler to tour new hitting facility. The donor is going to contribute a gift of \$1 million dollars.
- vii. Halloween Hoops Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 6pm
- viii. Mo has **all-sports** passes (besides Men's basketball games) for all Athletic Council members

17. Dan Krane mentioned that AC meeting times could possibly change to Nutter Center Berry Room on Nov. 19 at 5pm. He will keep everyone posted.

18. Dan Krane stated that he is also exploring dates to host SAAC for a Steak Dinner.

19. Meeting Adjourned at 9:54 am