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Athletics Council Meeting Minutes, August 8, 2013

Athletics Council

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Members in attendance:

J. Justin Boggs, Mill Miller, Dan Krane, Scott Wilson, Mary Kenton, Larry Prochaska, Tom Fortener, Mo Cooper, Steve Fortson, Robert Rando, Brittney Whiteside, Judy Chivers, Marie Bashaw, Marty Emmert, Dan Abrahamowicz, Bob Grant, Jeff John

1. **Call to order-** The meeting was called to order at 8:04 a.m. by Jeff John.
2. **Approval of 4/19/13 minutes-** The minutes from 4/19/13 meeting were approved with the following change- Suzanne Semones added to the members in attendance.
3. **Welcome and charge to Athletics Council-** Dr. Dan Abrahamowicz
Dr. Abrahamowicz thanked everyone for their participation on the committee and explained the importance of the committee to the university and athletic program. He explained that the committee is not mandated by NCAA but stresses the importance for a committee comprised of faculty, and athletic administration to ensure we stick with the principles of the constitution and by laws. Dr. Abrahamowicz explained that he is proud of the student athletes academic achievement and performance. He encourages the AC to continue its good work.
4. **Chair's Overview – Jeff John**
Jeff John expressed his appreciation to Dr. Abrahamowicz for his attendance and provided a overview of the purpose of the committee. Jeff explained the first order of business is populating the committees. He asked each committee chair to give an overview of the committee and for people to sign up for committees they are interested in.
5. **Committee Missions**
 - a. **Steering Committee-** Jeff John
Jeff John provided a brief description of the purpose of the steering committee. The committee offers guidance for the AC, provide minutes, guest speakers and prepare agenda for upcoming meetings.
 - b. **Gender equity – Mary Kenton**
Mary explained that the role of Gender equity is to provide an audit of the athletic department and ensure gender equality. This is a collaborative effort between athletic administration and the committee to provide information needed for the audit. Larry Prochaska gave a brief overview of the financial component to the committee where budgets are reviewed for equity between male and female athletes.
 - c. **Constitution and bylaws-** Marie Bashaw
Marie explained that the constitution and bylaws are reviewed every two years to ensure compliance with the goals set in athletics council.

d. **Diverse Student Athlete Advocacy** – Dr. Steve Fortson

Dr. Fortson informed the group that the role of the committee is to monitor academics and social progress of diverse student athletes. He explained that a 5 year plan was developed and implemented. This plan contains goals in retention, graduation, and eligibility rates of diverse student athletes. Recommendations are provided yearly to meet the goals. Dr. Fortson explained that the student athletes have performed well overall with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 with the diverse student athletes GPA being close to overall student athlete GPA.

e. **Student Welfare-** Dr. Fortson

Dr. Fortson provided a brief description of the purpose of the student welfare committee. He explained that the committee monitors the welfare of the student athletes. The committee recently made recommendations for hiring athletic training staff based on lack of coverage. Dr. Fortson explained that adding an additional athletic trainer provides better coverage of all sports, and less stress on the athletic training staff. The committee also oversees the student athlete survey. After completion of his/her eligibility an outside company is used to survey athletes and the information gathered is provided to the department.

f. **Academic Affairs-** Judy Chivers

Judy provided a description of the purpose of the academic affairs committee. The committee monitors student athletes grades, missed class, report academic progress, graduation rate, and assess best practice for monitoring progress. Accutrack is the system currently used to monitor student athlete's academic progress. The majority of athletes are graduating within 4 years and 1 semester. Occasionally Athletes will need a fifth year to complete their degree, the progress of the athlete is assessed and fifth years are awarded for completion of degrees.

g. **Pre-Game Lecture Series (ad hoc)** – Dan Krane provided a brief description of the Pre-Game Lecture Series indicating that it is an attempt to encourage the colleges to support an athletic function by having a lecture prior to several men's basketball games. He indicated that this year's pre-game lectures would take place on Friday, November 1 and Tuesday, January 21.

h. **New Business.** Jeff John introduced the idea of re-instituting the Finance Committee. Jeff explained that he was troubled by the financial burdens of the athletic department as well as the uncertainty of the national landscape of collegiate athletics and felt that the Finance Committee could possibly be utilized to help diffuse criticism by faculty. Past members of the Finance Committee provided feedback that the group did not accomplish much when it was in existence. Dr. Stephen Fortson referred to the Athletics Council Constitution (Section V; A-3) and indicated that the Steering Committee "shall review the annual budget that the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics submits to the Administration...." He suggested there is no need to re-institute the Finance Committee if the Steering Committee is following the

Constitution. Mary Bashaw suggested that the Steering Committee add a standing agenda item to update the Council on the departmental budget as needed. The suggestion to reinstitute the Finance Committee was not moved.

7. FAR Report – Dr. Fortson indicated that the first Horizon League Meeting will be held in Indianapolis during the last week of September and he would have more to report at later AC meetings. He is currently a member of the Horizon League’s Administrative sub-committee and Television sub-committee.

8. SAAC Report – SAAC President, Brooke McCurdy was traveling with women’s soccer team; therefore, Bob Grant provided a brief update of SAAC. He encouraged AC members to attend a SAAC breakfast at some point this academic year (dates are...). He described the I (heart) Wright State program that SAAC will be implementing in which athletic teams will be doing things for the Wright State community in an effort to make it a better place (i.e., clean and/or paint facilities). Mo Cooper provided a brief update on upcoming Life Skills Events (September 8 – concussion/wellness presentation; September 16 - SAAC breakfast; September 19 Hazing Awareness). *SAAC meeting dates – Sept 16, Oct 7, Nov 4, Jan 13, Feb 3, March 3*

9. Athletics Director Report – Bob Grant described the national landscape in collegiate athletics with specific attention to conference realignment. He described how the Horizon League was affected by this realignment in Butler and Loyola departing while inviting Oakland University into the league. He explained that nine was not an ideal number of institutions for the Horizon League and that the membership was actively seeking a tenth member. A tenth member would most likely help to identify travel partners which is better financially for travel and encourages less missed class time. He indicated that adding Oakland “fixes” the baseball automatic qualifier situation. Meaning the winner of the baseball Horizon League Championship receives an automatic bid into the NCAA Championship.

He informed the AC of two recent coaching changes in that Sion Brinn (swimming) was recently hired at Lakeland Community College, a premier swimming community college. His assistant, Kyle Oakes was promoted to the head coaching position. Also, Rob Cooper (baseball) was recently named the Head Baseball Coach at Penn State University. Wright State’s former Associate Head Coach, Greg Lovelady, was named Cooper’s successor.

Bob described the continuing upgrades occurring at the Wright State Softball Field and told the AC that the men’s and women’s basketball schedules were in large part done and soon to be released. Dr. Krane informed the AC that Dr. Hopkins is the Chair of IUC (Inter-University Council of Ohio) and that he (Krane) is the chair of the OFC (Ohio Faculty Council) and that perhaps those two affiliations could assist in making Ohio school schedule one another on a regular basis as a cost-saving measure.

10. Fall Sports Update – Mo Cooper provided an update of all fall sports.