

Minutes, Athletics Council Meeting of October 31, 2014

Attendance: Lawrence Prohaska, Mark Gazdik, Jeff John, Mill Miller, Linda Ramey, Bob Rando, Marie Bashaw, Stephen Fortson, Judy Chivers, Joakim Carlsson, Sara Hill, Misty Cox, Sheila Nahrgang, Bill Wood, Mary Kenton, Bob Grant, Roderick Perry, Brandon Hays, Justin Boggs, Tom Fortener, Drew Corbett, Bob Grote, Alexander Snyder

1. The meeting was called to order at about 8:05 a.m.

2. There were no minutes from last meeting to be approved. They will be approved at the next meeting. Mill Miller agreed to take notes for this meeting.

3. Coaches' Corner:

Women's Basketball Coach Michael Bradbury: This year's team will have six players with little past playing time, each of whom will have to play significant minutes. Three of last year's seniors are playing abroad. Three of this year's six current seniors have already graduated. Current player Kim Demmings is special. She will break every record at WSU, and beyond WSU. She is close to many Horizon League records. She will have a financially good career in Europe.

Question: Who is the major HL competition? Green Bay is the 16-time conference champ and is expected to repeat. Cleveland. St and WSU are the biggest challengers.

Men's Basketball Coach Billy Donlon Jr.: Five players graduated last year. AJ Pacher since has been named player of the year in Switzerland; Matt Vest is in Germany; Cole Darling is in Hungary. Miles Dixon remains here in the Dayton area. Jerran Young is here, rehabbing after surgery.

Regarding this year's team, Coach Donlon said he is disappointed with poor choices made by some players. He said these actions don't define the team. Coach Donlon said the team has had people graduating and there is a list of successes, and championship games. He said that was a credit to the program and the result of recruiting the right people.

He said this year's team will play at a faster tempo, and he will re-evaluate after 13-14 games. The team will be guard-heavy. Coach Donlon said the team can finish anywhere between first or 9th. UW-Green Bay is the probable favorite but Cleveland State will be good, although their depth is suspicious. Valparaiso and Detroit are predicted 3rd and 4th with WSU 5. The team has good APR scores.

Coach Donlon said he is humbled by Kim Demmings, "an incredible player."

He said that it is very difficult to get home games, but this year we will host George Mason and Belmont.

Question: What are you going to do to get them mentally tough, given distractions? Answer: It's not a happy locker room. Working them hard. Coaching fundamentals is tough.

There is a focus on academics. The APR is accurate and he is proud of our academic success.

Question: Has he given some thought to requiring his players to live on campus? Answer: He was disturbed to learn one off-campus housing venue popular with players housed only students at one time, but now allows non-students, so he is thinking of requiring players to live on campus.

4. Committee Reports:

There's no membership on the constitution and bylaws committee. Jeff will take over.

Gender Equity has not met.

Academic Affairs: Judy Chivers reported on the electronic early-report system. Of 449 professors contacted, 95 responded. She is very hopeful. Dr. Perry said the numbers may be misleading because the system only requires response if there is a problem.

Ms. Chivers said the WSU APR is in 90s, so “we're in good shape.”

Pregame Lecture: Dr. Krane reported that because there are serious difficulties with access to the Berry Room during basketball season we probably will not have a Pregame Lecture this year.

Student Welfare/Diverse student advocacy: Dr. Fortson reported that there are challenges to hiring adequately diverse athletics staff because of small numbers of potential staff for hiring.

Student Welfare met the Wednesday before the Athletics Council meeting. They examined and/or discussed trainer coverage, drug testing, concussions, student athlete surveys, and life skills. Joylynn Brown will take Brittney Whiteside's role.

5. Faculty Athletics Representative report: FARS met twice (once in Indy with Joylynn Brown and Bob Grant). The Horizon League has created a postgraduate scholarship program and two awards will be made yearly (\$10,000 over two years) to one female and one male athlete. A survey that investigates the practices of A/Cs at other Horizon league schools has been administered and we await results.

Drug testing: All student athletes have to sign a release to allow themselves to be tested. Currently, athletes are tested for street drugs; there is no testing for performance-enhancing substances at the college level, but NCAA comes at least once a year to test. Jason Franklin of strength testing does the testing. There is a safe harbor policy for counseling; no official reporting exists outside of internal reporting. Testing is random, or by suspicion.

6. SAAC : Joakim Carlsson reported that the track and cross-country teams helped with the Dayton Children's 5k race. Teams not in season are particularly active. Next meeting is Nov. 3, at 7 a.m.

7. Athletics Director's Report: Bob Grant praised the energy of the Athletics Council. Joakim Carlsson, Corey Ellis and Bob Grote were acknowledged for their continued support to the Athletics Council. The Athletics Department continues to shine a light for the university and the recent fundraising. About 1/3 of the larger donors had their initial contact with the university through athletics. The recent Rise N Shine event in McClint Gym generated good publicity for WSU. The staff is down by two, and a third member is out with a broken leg, so the staff is short-handed. Mr. Grant said he has a short list of candidates for the openings. Joylynn Brown and Chris Bethel have stepped in seamlessly in their new positions.

Former soccer athlete Travis Sobers lost family members in a shooting in Trinidad. To raise funds, they have created a link:

<http://www.youcaring.com/memorial-fundraiser/sobers-family-support-fund/252706>

Mr. Grant said the Horizon League has settled into a one-bid league for the NCAA basketball tournament, which is not what we want. We don't have any teams set up for at-large bids, so if a leading team fails in the HL tournament, the league has a tough chance. A change in the HL tourney format won't help the at-large bid situation.

Mr. Grant said he is not concerned about the ongoing changes in the NCAA structure. The big schools will be able to spend their dollars on coaches, then on facilities, and now if they want differentiation they'll set themselves up with food trucks, lifetime insurance for players, etc. But we don't recruit against Ohio State; We are not a win-at-all costs place. That is a differentiating factor for us.

8. Fall Sports Update: Dr. Rod Perry reported that Volleyball 4-19-1 plays tonight; swimming at UW-Milwaukee tonight and GB tomorrow.. Women's soccer is 6-9-1 (5th); men's soccer is 10-5-1 (3rd), trying to secure a first-round bye. Women's Basketball hosts Ashland. Golf is having its best season.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:40, after which a group picture was taken in the meeting room.