

Wright State University
Athletics Council Minutes
Friday, February 28, 2014

Members in attendance: Marie Bashaw, Mill Miller, Linda Ramey, Dave Finnie, Bob Rando, Tom Fortenor, Bill Wood, Larry Prochaska, Linda Ramey, Brittney Whiteside, Suzanne Semones, Mary Kenton, Bob Grant, Bob Grote, Mark Gazdik, Marty Emmert, Judy Chivers, Jeff John, Jackie Schetter, Sheila Nahrgang, Steve Fortson.

1. Call to order- The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m. by Jeff John.
2. Approval of 1/31/14 minutes- Jeff John requested approval of minutes with correction to previous notes date.
3. Coaches Corner- Bob Grant introduced Director of corporate sponsorships Jackie Schetter. He explained that she handles the athletic department corporate sponsorships sales as well as the nutter center. Jackie has been in the position for 5 years now and is very valuable to the department. Jackie explained to the group that she handles the corporate donations for the program and that can come in the form of cash, or trades for advertisement. She works closely with the marketing department to ensure the sponsors receive the benefit of promotions. Jackie explained that she also assist in oversight of the swim and dive program. Bob Grote inquired about the athletics department cell phone contract and if there are options for her to negotiate deals or does athletics have to be under same policy as the university. Jackie explained that she does have the flexibility to negotiate athletics cell phone contract. We are currently with sprint and they offer us a great deal on our lines. Pepsi is one of our exclusive sponsorships but she tries to stay away from exclusive deals so that they can negotiate. Larry inquired about who our top sponsor is at this time. Jackie explained that Pepsi, Miami Valley Hospital, Premier Health, Speedway, and Dayton Freight are our top sponsors.

Jeff asked Jackie if she does a lot of cold calls for sponsorships. Jackie explained that cold calls are used to set up meetings to work out deals that make sense for both parties. Bob Grote inquired about digital sponsorship packages offered. Jackie explained that she provides the sponsors with a menu of options and pricing and can get creative and make a package that works best for them. She explained that Dr. A is currently helping to purchase a product that provides a value for the advertisement we sell. We currently could be offering a package for 10k that should be worth 30k. Jeff thanked Jackie for her time and explained she was welcome to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

Committee Reports.

4. Steering Committee- Jeff John indicated that the committee met briefly and found coach corner guest Jackie Schetter. He also explained that they reviewed the knight's commission report which revealed WSU did well on funding of athletics.
5. Academic Affairs- Judy Chivers provided the group with the academic grade report and explained that currently student-athletes are doing very well and last semester the overall GPA was 3.138. Judy explained athletes have strong support systems that helps them do well. Rod is currently participating in meetings on how to manage students GPA on campus using the athletics model. Bob Grote inquired about who does scheduling for student-athletes. Judy explained that she encourages all athletes to see advisors to make sure they are on tract. Judy review progress reports frequently.
6. Constitution and Bylaws. Marie Bashaw indicated that bylaw 3a. reads "no person will be able to participate in the athletics council meetings without invitation by chair" Marie suggested the removal of this due to the fact that meetings are open to the public but make there is language that reads only members can vote.
7. Gender Equity. Mary Kenton indicated the committee has had difficulty meeting due to busy schedules. They are still working hard to meet the deadline. There is no dramatic change in trends. Spending on support services increased from 1.2 million to 1.6 million. Mo is currently having Sara look into this and double check it for accuracy.
8. Student Welfare. Steve Fortson indicated that he is waiting to review sports medicine reports and spring sports exit interviews. Jeff inquired about findings from the surveys. Steve explained that the overwhelming majority express that if they had to choose again they would choose wright state. There are some concerns expressed by the track and swim programs with facilities or lack of adequate training sites.
9. Pre-Game Lecture Series. No report.
10. Diverse Student-Athlete Advocacy. Steve Fortson indicated that he is currently working with Brittney Whiteside to organize the SAAC and diverse student-athletes reception on March 14 from 5:30-7 p.m.
11. FAR Report – Steve Fortson reported that the Horizon League is currently working on updating the strategic plan and has created 5-6 working groups to accomplish this. They are currently looking at wording in the plan. There has been some concern since the departure of Butler on how to maintain revenue stream. The TV committee just secured an ESPN deal with the Horizon League that looks very promising.

12. SAAC Report- Brittney Whiteside reported SAAC is currently working on its relay for life fundraiser. Each team is responsible for collecting donations at the door of another sport. In April student-athletes from each team will participate in the campus wide relay for life event. The group is also working on Rowdies which will be held on March 23 at 7 p.m. She explained that this is fun event for all student-athletes to participate in and be recognized.
13. Athletics Director Report – Bob Grant reported to the group that he recently had a Horizon League conference call with athletic directors where they discussed scheduling. He explained that scheduling as a big issue for both teams this year. The men play on one days of rest and neither coach used it as an excuse but it definitely needs to be talked about and changes need to occur. Bob explained that he would like to use a computer for scheduling. Wright State is currently an outlier in the league and has no travel partner since Butler left.

Bob also highlighted that both our men's and women's basketball championships will be held in Green Bay. Bob expressed the need to change the tournament format to a neutral site.

The softball back stop is completed and would like to finish the bleachers next year. He is very optimistic that baseball and softball will get a hitting barn, and tennis alum are willing to help with leveling tennis courts. Bob explained that our facilities continue to get better.
14. Fall/Winter Sports Update – Brittney Whiteside provided an update of men's and women's basketball, track and men's and women's swimming and diving.
15. New Business or Public Comment- Information was provided to the group on voting for Jerran Young as dark horse dunk of the year. The next athletic council will be March 28 at 8 a.m.

The meeting adjourned.