

Wright State University Athletics Council Minutes

Friday, August 29, 2014

8:00 a.m., E157 Student Union

In Attendance:

Mill Miller, Bob Rando, Linda Ramey, Judy Chivers, Marie Bashaw, Joakim Carlsson, Brittney Whiteside, Joylynn Brown, Sheila Nahrgang, Chris Bethel, Bob Grant, Roderick Perry, J. Justin Boggs, Tom Fortener, Mary Kenton, Dan Krane, Kyle Powell, Jeff John, Stephen Fortson

The minutes from the 4/25/14 Council meeting were approved.

Coach's Corner – Bob Grant introduced two new staff members: Joylynn Brown and Chris Bethel. Both are Assistant Athletics Directors. Joylynn will focus on internal operations while Chris will focus on facilities and operations. Joylynn was a student-athlete at WSU and was the head volleyball coach from 1998 to 2005. She returns to the university after being in the business world for the past nine years. She is supervising men's and women's cross country, women's track, volleyball, women's soccer, men's and women's swimming and diving and softball. She also supervises the equipment room and the strength and conditioning department.

Chris Bethel joins the athletics department after working for the Nutter Center for fourteen years. He oversees all facility operations. Chris shared that he is working on branding and upgrades while increasing revenue through facility rental. He is in talks with the OHSAA about hosting portions of the high school soccer tournament. OHSAA baseball is returning this year. Chris is also developing a grass roots effort with local youth teams.

There are several new facilities in development: new tennis facility located next to Rinzler soccer complex, and new bleachers at Alumni Field with a press box that will overlook Alumni Field and Mulhollan Field. The soccer bleachers are old and unsafe. They are being replaced with repair and replace funds.

Bob Grant explained the tennis courts we have are in poor condition, so much so that coaches will not take recruits to see them during visits and we have to train/compete at off campus sites.

Bob also explained the soccer, baseball and softball fields brought in \$60,000 in rental fees last year with no advertising or marketing on our part. With additional efforts that amount will increase. The tennis team runs the concession at Rinzler Complex for fundraising. It was asked if we could get more food options, possibly food trucks, at outside events. Chris Bethel explained we have a contract with Chartwell's and they have final say in bringing outside food in.

Committee Recruiting – Jeff John explained we need new committee members and chairpersons. Each current chairperson explained what their respective committees do and a sign-up sheet was passed around the room.

The Steering Committee advises the Athletics Council on the establishment or elimination of committees, appoints the members of the standing and ad hoc committees, prepares and approves agendas for Athletics Council meetings, acts as an oversight committee to see that responsibilities are fulfilled, and reviews the annual budget that the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics submits to the Administration. (Chair- Jeff John)

The Gender Equity Committee gathers information from a variety of sources about the status of Title IX compliance on an annual basis and makes recommendations to the Athletics Director, the Athletics

Council and the Central Administration about how to achieve or maintain gender equity. (Chair- Mary Kenton)

The Academic Affairs Committee is responsible for recommending (to the Athletics Council) requirements for academic eligibility, reviewing and recommending policies for awarding grants-in-aid, approving fifth-year scholarships and periodically reviewing eligibility of students participating in intercollegiate athletics. (Chair- Bill Wood)

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall periodically review the council's constitution and bylaws and make recommendations to the Athletics Council for changes if appropriate. (Chair- Marie Bashaw)

The Diverse Student Athlete Advocacy Committee monitors the academic and social progress of minority athletes. Minimally, the committee will prepare an annual report of the academic progress of minority athletes compared to all WSU athletes. Additional items for the annual report may include recommendations to the Athletics Department to improve the academic and/or social climate for WSU minority athletes. (Chair- Steve Fortson)

The Student Welfare Committee monitors, evaluates, and addresses student-athlete health, safety, and welfare on a continuing basis. The committee addresses grievance and appeals procedures available to student-athletes, and when appropriate, provide student-athletes with timely intervention, information, and referrals as they relate to student welfare issues. This committee also oversees the process for exit and midterm interviews and determines how the information gathered is used to improve student-athlete welfare. Additionally, the Student Welfare Committee conducts exit interviews of student-athletes. (Chair- Steve Fortson)

Pregame Lecture Committee recruits faculty members to lecture about research and recognize student-athletes in that college. Presents a great opportunity to illuminate to the public the academics at WSU. (Chair – Dan Crain)

FAR Report –Steve Fortson discussed recent changes in the NCAA, creating a “brave new world.” The NCAA has given the “Big Five” athletic conferences the ability to govern themselves and push through rules changes as they see fit. The Big Five includes the Southeastern Conference, ACC, Big 12, Big Ten and Pac 12. We have to decide what we can and cannot do financially. Executive meetings next month in Indy to develop a league stance.

The Little 5 (Mountain West, Conference USA, American Athletic Conference, Sun Belt and Mid-American Conference) wants to associate with the Big 5, but the Big 5 is not interested. The other 27 conferences need to determine what they are going to do.

The Ed O’Bannon class action suit against the NCAA about names, images and likenesses being used in licensing and marketing ruled against the NCAA. Student-athletes are now able to receive compensation. The NCAA has limited the fund for student-athletes to \$5000/year in deferred compensation.

SAAC Report – Joakim Carlsson spoke about the fundraising and community service efforts the SAAC is participating in, including Letter to the Troops, Toys for Tots, and the Wright Patt/WSU 5K. They are also working to improve attendance among student-athletes at sporting events. The Welcome Back Picnic is on August 29th between the women’s and men’s soccer games and we expect a large crowd. The first SAAC meeting is on Tuesday, September 9th at 7:00 a.m.

Athletic Director's Report – Bob Grant spoke about Joakim Carlsson and how he embodies everything we want in a student-athlete. He is an extremely talented and creative person who will have a career in the film industry and is a real joy to be around. Mark Gazdik talked about the soccer doubleheader later in the evening with the women's team playing Ohio University at 5 and the men's team playing the University of Kentucky at 7:30. He has been working with coaching staff to schedule home games early in the season to get students excited. They will be giving away cowbells and free pizza at the games that night. We are developing great partnerships on campus. The bookstore partnered with us on the cowbells. Our opening home women's game had over 1000 people in attendance and we are working to create a great atmosphere for students and fans. We are selling season tickets for soccer for the first time. Tickets are \$20 for both men's and women's games and include a Wright State scarf.

Bob Grant distributed Raider Pride books to everyone. In the book there are four pages that outline the community outreach our student-athletes have taken part in, which speaks to the character of our student-athletes and coaches.

There has been some turn over within the department. Mo Cooper left to join her family at Penn State University. Sean McCaffrey took a position at Armstrong State and Todd Tucker has been named the Interim Head Tennis Coach. Jackie Schetter, Corporate Sales Manager, has left and has been replaced by Brandon Hays, who is currently the Assistant Director of Marketing.

Bob noted that high resource conferences have spent a lot of money on facilities, then salaries. Now the focus is on student-athlete welfare. There are many perks student-athletes are receiving at other universities that we do not have the funds to match. Mid majors will try to spend and keep up, which could cause two things: administrators will possibly cut sports and schools will start buying games to play at home. This has never happened before and could hurt us recruiting because the win/loss percentage at these schools will increase (70% of games are won by the home team). Dan Crain asked if we will get better athletes at non-revenue sports and Bob was not sure about this. Not every school has an Athletics Council. The fact that we do will give us some say in these matters.

The Horizon League has signed a seven year deal with ESPN. They like the Horizon League Network and we received great feedback from them because the technology on our campus is ahead of the curve. ESPN3 will host the Horizon League Network.

Fall Sports Update – Roderick Perry announced that men's soccer defeated Marquette 2-1 in an exhibition game. Women's soccer lost to Louisville 2-1 and lost to Wake Forest 2-1. Volleyball opens in a tournament at Indiana State. Men's and women's cross country have their first race at the Flyer 5K at Indian Riffle Park.

The men's basketball schedule is still being finalized. Some nonconference highlights include playing at Ohio State and hosting George Mason. The women's basketball team is playing in tournaments at Maine and Purdue and is hosting the University of Dayton.

No new business or public comments.

Announcements and Informational Items – Next meeting is on September 26 at 8:00a.m. in SU 153, near the food court. Dr. Abrahamowicz will be at the meeting. President Hopkins is attending the November meeting to discuss NCAA procedural changes.

Meeting Adjourned