



# ATHLETIC COUNCIL

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## ATHLETIC COUNCIL

### Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2002

PRESENT: Rick Audas, Gary Ferenchick, Charles Gagliano, Mike Kasavana, Ann Marie Kersten, Kurt Lausman, John Lloyd, Edmund Outslay, Robin Poston, Gaylan Rasmussen, Tom Schmidt, Elizabeth Turpin, Clarence Underwood, Keith Williams, Mel Yokoyama, June Youatt

ABSENT: Joan Garety, Francisco Villarruel

GUESTS: Ron Mason

The meeting was convened at 7:30 a.m. The minutes of the February 14 meeting were approved as distributed.

Head hockey coach Ron Mason was the guest speaker. Regarding the 2001-02 season, Coach Mason expressed disappointment for not having won the NCAA championship. However, he is looking forward to his new responsibilities as MSU's athletic director. He reported that the new head hockey coach is very experienced and smart, has won a national championship, and will bring new enthusiasm to the team. Mason expects his assistant coaches to stay and work with the new head coach.

Mason will begin the MSU athletic director position July 1. Currently he is having discussions with Underwood to familiarize himself with the position and

the department. He believes the athletics program is in good shape with good people in place. He plans to be available wherever support is needed. Regarding his management style, he said that he is not one to be timid about making tough decisions, nor for letting issues linger. Nonetheless he feels that he has developed patience during his coaching career.

In response to a question, Mason answered that he does not believe that his leaving the head coaching job to become the athletic director has affected recruiting. He would have preferred however that the announcement be made at the end of the season. He was not looking to leave coaching, but the opportunity to become AD was difficult to ignore. Mason mentioned that he has a five-year contract as AD. His primary concerns will be to keep the 25 sports financed and performing at the highest level. He understands that the budget will be his challenge. He prefers not to cut any sports.

Mason departed at 8:30 am.

Chair Kasavana circulated the 2002-03 Athletic Council meeting schedule.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Academic and Compliance Services

Gaylan Rasmussen gave the Academic and Compliance Services subcommittee report. The committee is looking at several items, including a systems analysis of the Smith Student-Athlete Academic Center. Primarily the committee is interested in strengthening ties between department advisors and the SASS coordinators. The committee also wants to improve the routing of the student progress reports and the effectiveness of the electronic feedback form. The committee is looking for a variety of ways to recognize student-athletes who have made progress in overcoming individual challenges.

The committee is also looking at the dual reporting lines of the SASS director, and its inherent challenges. Kasavana used the occasion to explain the electronic student progress reporting system to the Council.

## Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

Anna Marie Kersten had to leave early and was therefore asked to give her report at this time. She reported that Troy Ferguson had attended the Big Ten SAAC meeting on her behalf. The Big Ten SAAC group is reviewing the graduation rates reports of various university programs to determine their best format and how the information might be used.

## Planning and Equity Subcommittee

Ed Outslay gave the Planning and Equity subcommittee report. The group denied a proposal requesting varsity status for synchronized skating.

## Communications and Operations Subcommittee

The report was given by committee chair Anderson. The committee continues to discuss a new seating plan for Spartan Stadium.

## Drug Education and Testing Committee

Chair Gary Ferenchick reported on the following items.

1. Continued collaboration with on campus and community groups to determine how drug education is conducted in different sectors.
2. Testing and verifying donor specimens. One issue is how to maintain the student-athlete's privacy during testing.
3. Drug abuse among at-risk students. The committee has had considerable discussion concerning issues of confidentiality and the treatment of at-risk students. Four to five SASS advisors, Jeff Kovan, Sally Nogle and the athletic department psychology counselor are involved in the discussions.

A discussion followed concerning how "at-risk" should be defined.

## **ATHLETICS DIRECTOR REPORT**

The athletic director's report consisted of several information items, including the following:

1. The spring football game, scheduled for this Saturday, will be played on the football practice field instead of on the Okemos High School field due to poor field conditions.
2. The hockey banquet is this Thursday evening at 7:00 pm at Holiday Inn South.
3. The women's basketball banquet is this Friday, April 12, beginning at 7:30 pm Kellogg Center.
4. The SASS academic gala is scheduled on Sunday, April 21 at the Smith Center.
5. The Big Ten Rowing championship is being hosted by MSU and will take place Saturday, May 10 at Sleepy Hollow.
6. The department is preparing its 2002-03 budget.
7. The first set of dance team tryouts took place on April 4, second round tryouts will take place tonight. The tryouts are not without controversy.
8. An athletic symposium is scheduled for May 21 and will look at minorities in sports.

Underwood also gave a facilities update. Renovations at Jenison Fieldhouse are expected to be completed by August 1. He invited the Council to tour the facility at its next meeting (May 9). Council members agreed to hold the next meeting at Jenison Fieldhouse. The project to install grass in the stadium is proceeding on schedule and additional work is being done to the upper decks and to the team rooms. The outdoor track and field reconstruction is on schedule. The Capital Campaign will allow donations to softball, soccer, baseball and the Duffy Daugherty building renovations.

## **FACULTY ATHLETIC REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

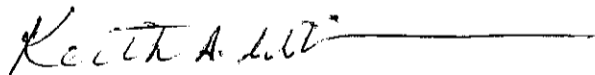
For his report, faculty athletic representative Kasavana discussed the six-year MSU graduation rate survey and the USA Today NCAA Foundation Academic Achievement Awards, which show the schools with the top rankings in three divisions. He also showed the latest rankings for the Sears Director's Cup.

## AROUND THE TABLE

There were no items from around the table.

The meeting concluded at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith A. Williams". A horizontal line is drawn across the end of the signature.

Keith A. Williams  
Secretary