



ATHLETIC COUNCIL

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ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2000

PRESENT: Bill Anderson, Sue Carter, Joan Garety, Charles Gagliano, Mike Kasavana, Edmund Outslay, Gaylan Rasmussen, Gloria Smith, Elizabeth Turpin, Clarence Underwood, Chris Vanderpool, Michael Webber, Damon Whitten, Keith Williams

ABSENT: Rick Audas, Jack Lloyd, Robin Poston, June Youatt

GUESTS: Bobby Williams

The meeting was convened at 7:30 a.m. The minutes of the November 9, 2000 meeting were approved as distributed.

Head Men's Football Coach Bobby Williams was the visiting coach. Coach Williams commented that the year has been a tough learning experience and that he, as new head football coach, has learned much. Although he began the year with high goals, he encountered factors, including a series of injuries that adversely affected individual games and ultimately the season's outcome. As illustration, in one game, he needed to play 19 red-shirt freshmen. Despite it all, he noted, the team never lost its morale. He anticipates a strong rebuilding year. Recruiting continues to be productive, affected in part by the reputations of the football program and the University. To date, there have been 11 commitments with a total of 22 expected. He is confident that the football program enjoys good

support from every level of the university, including departments, colleges, and the president. The Smith Center remains one of the best student-athlete support centers in the nation and continues to be the greatest tool for selling MSU to parents and prospects.

In response to a question about the grass vs. turf issue, Coach Williams said that there is no conclusive evidence that major injuries occur more frequently on one or the other surface. However, small injuries of the kind that seldom show up in evaluation statistics, occur more frequently on turf. More important is the fact that both players and parents feel that grass is better. Recognizing this, MSU's competitors, who have grass in their stadiums, are sure to mention this in their pitch to recruit students away from MSU. Regarding a question concerning the importance of academics in the football program, Coach Williams underscored his commitment to promote a climate in the football program that will result in good class attendance and performance. Having the players make full use of the academic support center is key to the maintenance of this climate. Coach Williams expects 11 of the 15 seniors to graduate this year, and he expects that the graduation rate will continue to be reasonable in future years.

In response to a question about Breslin seating and a possible reseating plan for Spartan Stadium, Coach Williams said that it would be appropriate for the university to institute a new stadium-seating plan when the football program attains a similar level of success to the basketball program. He also supports the construction of luxury stadium boxes as part of a plan to generate additional revenues.

Coach Williams explained that a NCAA procedure is being implemented to allow student-athletes to access information about the NFL draft without jeopardizing their eligibility. A several stage process will allow student-athletes to evaluate their potential ranking in the NFL draft without actually declaring for the draft.

The BCS has had an effect on scheduling. Many coaches are looking to increase their number of wins by avoiding scheduling high caliber teams early in the season. He mentioned that all Big Ten institutions benefit financially whenever a Big Ten school participates in the BCS or other post-season bowls.

Coach Williams departed the meeting following his presentation.

Subcommittee Reports:

Academic and Compliance Services

Chairperson Smith made the Academic and Compliance Services report. At the last subcommittee meeting, Demetrius Marlow offered suggestions regarding student-athlete exit interviews. He described NCAA instruments that are currently available for evaluating student progress and distributed a NCAA peer study report. Associate Athletic Director Shelly Applebaum will attend the next meeting to continue discussions relative to these topics.

Planning and Equity Committee

The subcommittee did not meet.

Communications and Operations

The subcommittee did not meet.

Drug Education and Testing

Subcommittee chair Anderson gave the report.

The athletic director has requested that the subcommittee devise a plan to evaluate the department's drug education activities. To date, a program evaluation specialist has been contracted and is currently helping the subcommittee design an evaluation instrument. Further reports on this matter will be available at future Athletic Council meetings.

Athletic Director Report

- In accordance with Ron Mason's request that video boards are installed in Munn by 2001, Athletic Director Underwood announced that the funding has been secured and that the video boards will be installed by 2001. The Blue Line Club has committed \$25,000 per year until the project is fully funded.

- AD Underwood praised Coach Izzo for having invited parents, student-athletes and staff to his home after a home game to participate in a workshop on academic success. The workshop offered information on compliance, academic requirements, and legal issues affecting the student-athlete.
- Assistant AD Karen Langeland has been assigned additional administrative responsibilities in the department.
- The MSU Health Team has been contracted to provide medical services to the department.
- Individual coaches are required to be more fiscally responsible for their budgets.
- Discussion continues in the Big Ten to create a formula that would have the institutions sharing more of their gate receipts. The current formula allows the home team to retain 65% of its gate receipts and to share the remaining 35% with the visiting institution. According to the proposed formula, institutions would also be required to include in-kind contributions.
- To date, \$5.4 million of the \$6.4 million needed for the Berkowitz Breslin extension has been raised. Ground breaking has already taken place.
- The department has received a NCAA Life Skills award for excellence.

SAAC Report

- SAAC Chairperson, Damon Whitten, reported that the SAAC has three new subcommittees. The first sets standards for community outreach. The second is reviewing gender equity issues and their effect on individual sports. The third is involved with the peer leadership program.

Faculty Athletics Representative Report

Representative Kasavana distributed and discussed graduation rate information as reported in the Chronicle of Higher Education. He and AD Underwood will report to the MSU Board of Trustees Policy subcommittee in December regarding the status of NCAA amateurism proposals.

The meeting concluded at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith A. Williams _____

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Secretary