



ATHLETIC COUNCIL

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ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2002

PRESENT: Rick Audas, Gary Ferenchick, Joan Garety, Charles Gagliano, Mike Kasavana, Ann Marie Kersten, Kurt Lausman, Edmund Outslay, Gaylan Rasmussen, Tom Schmidt, Elizabeth Turpin, Clarence Underwood, Francisco Villarruel, Keith Williams, June Youatt

ABSENT: Jack Lloyd, Robin Poston, Melvin Yokoyama

GUESTS: Chuck Erbe, Nicki Colson, Bobby Williams

The meeting was convened at 7:30 a.m. The minutes of the January 17 meeting were approved as distributed.

Today's first guests were head volleyball coach, Chuck Erbe and student-athlete Nicki Colson. Coach Erbe reported that the team represents the closest working group of players he's ever coach. The team is comprised of players from all over the United States.

The team began the Big Ten season with a 4-6 record, but were able to reverse their wins and losses with a 9-1 record during the second half of the season. They beat four nationally ranked teams, including Ohio State and Penn State, and gained the added bonus of national TV exposure. The team is young with only one senior. Coach Erbe thought the team deserved a higher placement in the 2001

NCAA tournament. He expects the team will do well next year, contending for the Big Ten championship and making the NCAA Final Four.

He reported that the team is doing extremely well scholastically. Ten of the seventeen players are on the dean's list and team members' grade point averages range from 3.2 to a 4.0. Nicki is the captain of the volleyball team and has two years of eligibility remaining. She hails from Nebraska, which is a hot spot for volleyball. She feels the MSU coaching staff is great and is enjoying her MSU experience.

In response to a question, Coach Erbe said that he is involved in a nationwide movement to change the volleyball scoring system so that the sport can better conform to TV broadcasts. He stated that currently volleyball scoring does not allow games to fit into the current TV formats. The proposed scoring system would allow for predictable beginning and ending times. Both the volleyball coach and the student-athlete left after their presentations.

The next guest was head football coach Bobby Williams. He discussed several issues including the mentor program, freshman orientation, and the relationship between the football program and SASS. He reminded the council that last year the football team lost nine players to academic deficiencies, including five freshmen and one senior. He said that a repeat of this situation together with the usual loss of players to injuries, could be disastrous to the football program. Of 85 players on scholarship, 19 have tested as learning disabled. He mentioned several concerns about the working relationship between SASS and the football program. He also mentioned there seems to be inadequate attention given to scheduling classes around established football practice times. The program continues to work with SASS to resolve issues related to the student athlete's progress toward a degree. Discussion followed concerning the role and relationship between SASS and the Department of Athletics in general and the football program. Coach Williams left after his presentation.

A letter from Norm Abeles, including an ECAC follow-up request, was distributed and discussed by Michael Kasavana.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

ATHLETICS DIRECTOR REPORT

Athletic Director Clarence Underwood reported on the following items.

1. The Women Athletes' Letter Winners Celebration was very successful. Underwood expressed special appreciation to Associate Director Shelley Appelbaum for her role in directing a well-run program.

2. He mentioned that he and Keith Williams had met with Murray Edwards, the advisor to Spartan Soul, Patty Oehmke, the advisor to MSU Motion, and others to discuss the involvement of the two dance groups during athletic events. The outcome of the discussion is that athletics will sponsor a more diverse, singular dance team which will appear during athletic events.

3. He announced that a retirement reception for Sylvia Thompson is being planned for March 26.

4. He also announced that there is a symposium scheduled for May 21, 2002, which will address black head coaches' issues.

STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

No report. Their next meeting is schedule for Wednesday, Feb. 20.

FACULTY ATHLETIC REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

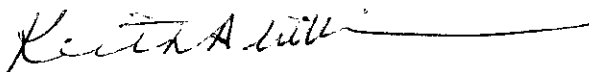
Faculty representative Kasavana reported on Big Ten Legislation and announced there would be no Athletic Council meeting in March. The next meeting is April 11 at 7:30 a.m..

AROUND THE TABLE

There were no items from around the table.

The meeting concluded at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith A. Williams
Secretary