



ATHLETIC COUNCIL

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ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2003

PRESENT: Gary Ferenchick, Chuck Gagliano, Joan Garety, Mike Kasavana, Ann Marie Kersten, Marvel Lang, Tom Morse, Edmund Outslay, Tom Schmidt, Elizabeth Turpin, Keith Williams, Mel Yokoyama

ABSENT: Rick Audas, John Lloyd, Ron Mason, Robin Poston, Francisco Villarruel,

GUESTS: Shelley Appelbaum, Jim Lutz, David Sloan, Elizabeth Watkins

Note : June Youatt has resigned from the Council. Shelley Appelbaum attended for Ron Mason.

The meeting was convened at 7:30 a.m. The minutes of the January 8 meeting were approved as distributed.

Today's guests were head swim coach Jim Lutz and two student-athletes: Liz Watkins, an Advertising junior and David Sloan, a senior in Supply Chain Management.

Coach Lutz is completing his third year at Michigan State. The women's and men's teams are respectively two and three weeks away from their Big Ten Tournaments. Of the many ways to evaluate a team's performance, the Coach believes team improvement over time should be looked at as much as wins and losses. In this regard, he feels the team has made considerable progress over the past three years. This has happened despite staffing shortages and facility limitations. Nonetheless, the teams annually set these three goals for themselves: to qualify for the Nationals, win the Big Ten championship, and win individual

meets, in that order. He reported that for the first time, tower diving has been added to the Big Ten lists of competitive events. He reported also that the team has players whose talent and current level of performance should place them in the Nationals.

Student-athlete Liz Watkins informed the Council that she continues to wrestle with the rigors of class scheduling and practice times, which she feels presents a special challenge to the student-athlete. In her short time at MSU, she has seen marked changes in overall team performance. In a word, there is more team spirit, expressed in more friendships and greater mutual support among team members.

David Sloan, a senior from Pittsburgh, said that the decision of high school classmates to attend Michigan State influenced his own decision to attend the University. Being a senior he feels that relative to Liz's comments, he has had a little longer period to evaluate MSU's program and agrees with her that changes have been extensive. Indeed, he is excited to be able to speak of MSU as a top 15 team nationally and as a program on the rise.

In response to a question about facilities, David mentioned that while facilities are important, the selling points he uses to promote the program are the strength of the team's performance and the quality of the coaching.

In response to other questions, Coach Lutz added that academics are a high priority and as illustration he mentioned the severe penalties for swimmer absenteeism from class. Concerning roster management, he mentioned that the team has a cap of 24 men and 32 women and that he travels with squads of 26. Two-thirds of the current team are freshmen and sophomores, which bodes well for the team's future. The program is regularly funded for two staff members, and receives special funding through the Ralph Young Fund for a third position.

Both Coach and student-athletes were complimentary of the Smith Center advising. All three left the meeting after their presentations.

Chair Kasavana distributed the MSU student-athlete academic performance report. Of special note are the 313 student-athletes who have maintained a 3.0 cumulative GPA, and the Department's overall cumulative GPA of 2.95, the highest of all time. There was discussion about ways this impressive information could be disseminated within the university community. It was suggested that John Lewandowski be invited to a future meeting to discuss publicizing student-athlete academic performance statistics.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Compliance and Services Committee

No report.

Planning and Equity Committee

No report.

Communications and Operations Committee

The committee did not meet. The discussion taking place at the University level about stadium seating and the construction of stadium boxes, at some point soon, will affect committee deliberations.

Drug Education and Testing Committee

No report. The committee will meet next week, and will continue to review the merits of hair sample testing to determine abuse of performance enhancement and other drugs.

ATHLETICS DIRECTOR REPORT

Associate AD Shelley Appelbaum reported on the Department's progress implementing gender equity measures and instituting a diversity enhancement program. Appelbaum reiterated the Department's aggressive commitment to gender equity and diversity enhancement. Of the several stages in gender equity implementation, the Department has spent considerable resources on the first stage, which involved drawing up extensive plans and enumerating goals and timelines. In retrospect, she acknowledged that the original 1997 gender equity plan set lofty goals. She explained that that plan dealt with scholarship allocations, participation rates, and proposals for achieving the proportionality requirements of gender equity regulations. Currently Michigan State has an enrollment of roughly 53.9% women. Today the percentage of women student-athletes is very close to 52%, having changed from 33% ten years ago. This level of proportionality has been reached as a result of employing several strategies including eliminating men's sports and monitoring roster management. Appelbaum also mentioned that MSU's challenge is particularly acute since it is one of the top five schools in the

Big Ten offering a large range of varsity sports. The department also has a goal of achieving reasonable proportionality regarding financial assistance. Currently \$2.5 million is given to men's sports and \$1.5 million to the women's. These figures translate into 141 women's and 180 men's scholarships.

Appelbaum discussed the enhancements to the Olympic sports facilities, affecting both men's and women's sports. To date, close to \$9 million has been put into the Jenison building renovation.

Regarding diversity enhancement, she reported that the department has hired two staff persons who will receive training at the national level in diversity matters. In their roles, they will review the current status in the Department and make recommendations on enhancing diversity programming. She also announced that alumnus Herb Washington has been selected as MSU's Big Ten Advisory Commission representative. He will review the quality of life for minorities in the Department and report his observations to the Department and to the Big Ten.

Appelbaum participated in discussion after her presentation.

FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

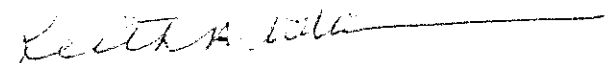
Chair Kasavana reported on three items:

- Big Ten institutional missed class time policies
- The Big Ten's participation in a summit dedicated to addressing the decline in fan behavior.
- The Big Ten principles, priorities, and guidelines relative to academic support staff were discussed.

There were no comments from around the table.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith A. Williams
Secretary