



# ATHLETIC COUNCIL

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## ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes  
January 15, 2004

PRESENT: Henry Beckmeyer, Steve Dilley, George Eyster, Charles Gagliano, Joan Garety, Mike Kasavana, Ann Marie Kersten, Ron Mason, Edmund Outslay, Jack Pitts, John Revitte, Louise Selanders, Tom Schmidt, Keith Williams,

ABSENT: Landon Bartley, Marvel Lang, Jeanette Lantzy, Elizabeth Turpin, Geraldine Zeldes

GUESTS: Angela Howard, Alex Kyser, Kathy Lindahl, Michele Madison, Kimya Massey

The meeting was convened at 7:30 a.m. The minutes of the November 13 meeting were approved as presented.

The guests of the morning were Michele Madison, head field hockey coach and student-athlete Alex Kyser. Coach Madison has been at Michigan State for 12 years. During her tenure the team has enjoyed many Big Ten Conference championships, finishing last year in the NCAA elite eight. Recent goals certainly show the team's progress over time. For example, during Alex's freshman year, the team's goal was to win at least half of its games. Now, of course, the team has a goal to reach NCAA postseason tournament play, and to be Big Ten champions.

Kyser is a first team All-America from Columbus, Ohio. She is a communications major with a minor in Spanish and expects to go into international business, play

professional field hockey in South America, or to do both. She had relatives who attended Michigan State and through them became familiar with the university before her official visit. The official visit affirmed her decision to attend. Kyser praised the Smith Student-Athlete Academic Center, saying it gave MSU an advantage during her recruitment. She thinks the campus is uniquely beautiful year round.

Coach Madison talked about the number of MSU players that have had success outside of the program. Many have been invited to participate on national teams. For example, Michelle Huynh-Ba was selected to play on the national under 20 and under 21 teams. In response to a question, Coach Madison mentioned it was bittersweet to move from Spartan Stadium to the new field hockey field. The new facilities have had a huge impact on recruitment, on the game, and have given the team greater visibility. The facilities have been recognized nationally with an award from a track and field organization. In response to another question, Madison mentioned that recruiting extends beyond Michigan since there are only 11 schools in the state that have field hockey programs. In fact, she recruits not only outside of the state but outside of the country as well, especially in Europe where the sport has great popularity. Currently of the 25 team members, four are international.

While the team travels with up to 24 players only 16 actually play. Field hockey is an equivalent scholarship sport. Coach Madison has leeway to split scholarships among players. She tries to ensure that all seniors have full ride scholarships.

Both Coach Madison and student-athlete Kyser left after their presentations.

Kathy Lindahl, assistant vice president for finance and operations reported on the NCAA certification process. Lindahl is a natural to head this committee since she is in a senior management position at the university and is familiar with athletics, yet athletics does not report to her. She distributed handouts, discussed in detail the committee's function and provided NCAA information regarding report forms and criteria. Primarily the NCAA reviews policies and procedures in an effort to ensure the fair treatment of student-athletes. Lindahl will seek assistance from the entire Athletic Council as part of the reporting process, and will have members of the council on the review team.

Michigan State has always played a prominent role in the NCAA review process. The NCAA is streamlining the process to make it less cumbersome. The process can result in one of three review judgments: certification, certification with

conditions, or no certification. Only one school in recent memory has failed to receive certification. A 44-person committee, which will convene between February and September, will be responsible for collecting information and drafting reports. Lindahl will compile the first draft and will schedule opportunities for public comments. By March of next year, the report will be sent to the NCAA where it will undergo a two to five person peer review process. Lindahl reiterated that the Athletic Council would have input throughout the process.

Kasavana referred members to the Athletic Council's proposed revised mission statement, and requested that the council review the statement and provide comments at the February meeting. It was suggested that each subcommittee place the review of the mission statement on its next agenda and report at the February council meeting.

Angela Howard, SASS Associate Director, and staffer Kimya Massey (both former MSU student-athletes) discussed the MSU Life Skills program. Angela is in her second year in the position and her seventh year at Michigan State, while Massey is in his first year. The life skills program was developed in 1998, to ensure that student-athletes are well-rounded. There are five components of the program -- academics, athletics, personal development, career development and community outreach. The life skills program focuses on the last two components-- career development and community outreach. Howard talked mostly about community outreach, indicating that during the course of a year, there are more requests for student-athlete appearances than can be filled. Some projects are ongoing and others are one-time requests. One ongoing project is the pen pal project in which student-athletes write letters to designated classes in the Lansing area, and each student in the class then responds as part of the class's literacy requirement and communications skills development program. Special posters for this project have been developed. Student-athletes also participate in the DARE graduation, and March reading month programs. The Office of Compliance Services reviews all projects to ensure there are no NCAA violations. Howard distributed a document, which showed that some 50 individual requests were filled last year. During the course of last year, 201 student-athletes were involved in reaching approximately 10,000 students in the community. Another program, Teams for Toys was special because student-athletes donated their own money to raise funds for the program. Howard mentioned that Michigan State has received national recognition for the number of student-athletes involved in this program.

Prior to departing the meeting, Howard and Massey extended an invitation to Athletic Council members to attend the Academic Gala scheduled on April 18.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Academic and Compliance Services Committee

Beckmeyer reported that the committee met with Jim Pignataro on November 25 to discuss student-athletes' majors, and the electives that complement any major. The next meeting is scheduled for January 29.

### Planning and Equity Committee

Outslay reported that the committee met in December to respond to a request for varsity status for women's bowling. Outslay gave the committee's reasons for denying the request. The council voted unanimously on the motion to deny varsity status to the women's bowling club team.

### Communications and Operations Committee

The report was given by Gagliano. He presented the proposal for ticket distribution for Athletic Council members. Essentially two football tickets will be made available to council members and two tickets to either hockey or basketball. Athletic Council members will be able to purchase additional tickets for any sport. It was also mentioned that this program is similar to the one adopted for the athletic staff by AD Mason. Mason feels that a similar program should be implemented for the entire university. Kasavana volunteered to prepare a written statement of the policy as it applies to the Athletic Council for review at the February council meeting.

### Drug Education and Testing

The report was given by Schmidt. The committee has met three times. The revised drug education and testing policy is in place and working well in both the testing and educational aspects. Hair testing was introduced this year for the first time. To date 12 student-athletes have been tested, all have been negative. The group is in the process of developing an audit form for the education and testing of drugs for student-athletics.

## ATHLETICS DIRECTOR REPORT

AD Mason reported on two items. The “BasketBowl” at Ford Field went extremely well, and had a huge financial impact for the city of Detroit. The reported difficulty handling traffic was minor compared to the success of the event. He mentioned that 90% of the people in attendance were Michigan State fans and both city vendors and service people reported that the event was good for Detroit. It is likely that the event will be repeated in the future. Mason also mentioned that the stadium set-up for the game impressed the NCAA such that it is considering reconfiguring set-ups for Final Four play based on the BasketBowl model.

Next Mason discussed the success of the presentation to win the Alamo Bowl bid for Michigan State. Half of the university’s bowl ticket allotment was sold, which means MSU sold over 5,000. By comparison, last year Michigan sold only 3,200 tickets when it played in the Alamo Bowl. At every public event the team was well disciplined, well dressed, and represented the university well.

## FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Kasavana reported and discussed at length four items: the Athletic Council web site project, all bowl game attendance statistics, Big Ten bowl game financial information and the EADA Big Ten information.

## AROUND THE TABLE

Williams mentioned that for the first time the Alumni Association teamed with Admissions to invite prospective students to some of the bowl events in San Antonio.

There were no additional items from around the table.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith A. Williams