



# ATHLETIC COUNCIL

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## ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2001

PRESENT: Bill Anderson, Rick Audas, Sue Carter, Joan Garety, Charles Gagliano, Mike Kasavana, Jack Lloyd, Edmund Outslay, Gaylan Rasmussen, Gloria Smith, Elizabeth Turpin, Clarence Underwood, Chris Vanderpool, Michael Webber, Keith Williams, June Youatt

ABSENT: Robin Poston, Damon Whitten

GUESTS: Tom Izzo, Jason Andreas, Mark Hollis, Greg Ianni

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

Head Men's Basketball Coach Tom Izzo and student-athlete Jason Andreas were meeting guests.

Coach Izzo said that the team is having its share of injuries and illnesses. Andre Hutson has pneumonia and may be out for as long as five days. Mike Chappell broke a finger on his shooting hand and, as a result, will have limited playing time during the healing period.

Izzo stressed the importance he places on discipline in his program for both athletic and academic success. This is especially important now during the Big Ten schedule. Five of the next six games will be on the road, requiring the players to be disciplined to keep up with their class work when they are away from campus. Izzo said that he tries to arrange travel so that few if any classes are missed. In this regard, the team has received outstanding cooperation and support from faculty and staff in the Smith Student-Athlete Academic Center. Both groups understand the rigors of athletic scheduling and are quick to provide help. The Smith Center has laptop computers available to players so that they can make the best use of their time when traveling. Izzo acknowledged the good working relationship he has with the Smith Center and praised the strong bridge that has been built between academics and athletics. Constant communication with the professors is very important. Izzo views his job as coach to be similar to that of the professors in that they both are involved in teaching student-athletes. He also feels that today he is dealing with players who are better skilled academically and athletically.

Izzo introduced Jason Andreas stating that he has the highest GPA on the team, which itself boasts one of the highest GPAs of all athletic teams. Andreas is a business/pre-law major and a red-shirt freshman. Early he was diagnosed with a degenerative knee injury, but with excellent repair surgery performed by Dr. Ross, he has been able to recover and expects to have a full playing career at MSU. There have been no recurring problems with the knee.

Andreas reiterated the coach's comments that there is a strong focus on academics in the program, and that the team's game schedule is unusual for the next two weeks. He mentioned how much the team appreciated having a week off to focus on academics, especially with classes just beginning. He too praised the Smith Center, commenting that all the players use the Center to the fullest extent. He appreciated having laptops and tutors on the trips. He and Coach Izzo expressed pride that the team has the highest GPA of any MSU basketball team in the last 10 years and praised faculty and the staff of the Smith Center as contributing influences.

Izzo mentioned that now that they have earned a national championship, the goal is to build a championship program by building success in all dimensions of the program. He expects the team to continue to win on the court while remaining outstanding performers off the court. He has devised a system that rates the players' academic performance in areas including class, study hall, and so forth.

The players' competitive natures drive them to strive for the best ranking in the system. In response to a question from a council member, Izzo said that it is always difficult to orient new students to the academic as well as athletic expectations of the program. In this regard he relies heavily on the performance of experienced players to help new student-athletes improve. In response to another question about the importance of including parents in the instruction of students, Izzo affirmed that there has to be a team effort by coaches and parents to ensure the academic and athletic success of the players.

Both coach and player departed the meeting following their presentations.

In Judy Van Horn's absence, Kasavana handed out and discussed NCAA proposed amateurism deregulation legislation.

Subcommittee Reports:

#### Academic and Compliance Services

No report.

#### Communications and Operations

The full Council received a recent newspaper article from ASMSU representative Mike Webber concerning gender equity issues.

#### Drug Education and Testing

The subcommittee continues to collect drug testing data and will report at a later Council meeting.

#### Athletic Director Report

As part of his report, AD Underwood introduced Associate Athletic Directors Mark Hollis and Greg Ianni who presented the Athletic Council with a PowerPoint presentation, which consisted of several items:

1. The expansion of the Breslin arena.

2. The status of the discussion to place natural turf modules in Spartan Stadium, and the projected schedule for replacement and relocation of sports that currently use Spartan Stadium. These sports will be directed to the outdoor track, which itself is to undergo redesign and reconstruction.
3. An overview of the Department's budget and finances, including a list of the major projects, which will incur a long term debt of \$42.6 million and the intended sources of revenue to reduce the debt.
4. The Assured Seating Plan (ASP) for Spartan Stadium was presented as a potential source of revenue. The plan represents the thinking to date of seating zones and additional seating plan details.
5. The department must generate at least \$2.5 million annually in new revenue. There was a call for Council support of the proposed ticket price increase for football next year. Support was given with one abstention. The Communications and Operations Subcommittee will continue to discuss details of the seating plan and make recommendations to the Council.

#### Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

No report.

#### Faculty Athletics Representative Report

Faculty Athletics Representative Kasavana distributed and discussed the Big Ten integrity report, the MSU student-athlete eligibility process flow chart, and provided an update of MSU's NCAA interim certification report.

#### Roundtable

There were no items from around the table.

The meeting concluded at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith A. Williams  
Secretary