



# ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Michael L. Kasavana, Ph.D., Chair

PHONE 517-353-9211  
FAX 517-353-6403

## ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes  
January 8, 2003

PRESENT: Rick Audas, Gary Ferenchick, Chuck Gagliano, Joan Garety, Mike Kasavana, Ann Marie Kersten, Marvel Lang, Ron Mason, Tom Morse, Edmund Outslay, Robin Poston, Elizabeth Turpin, Francisco Villarruel, Keith Williams, June Youatt, Mel Yokoyama

ABSENT: John Lloyd, Tom Schmidt

GUESTS: Angela Goodman, Sherita Williams

The meeting was convened at 7:30 a.m. The minutes of the December 5 meeting were approved as distributed.

Today's guests were women's track and field coach Angela Goodman and student-athlete Sherita Williams.

Coach Goodman began her remarks to the Council by referencing her last visit to the Athletic Council some five years ago when she was yet two months into her new head-coaching job. Since then, the program has undergone extensive growth. She is confident that the team has entered into a higher performance phase whereby it will be more competitive at the conference and national levels. Already the team has earned enough competition points to rank third in the conference. Recruitment today is more selective and is focused on bringing to MSU talent needed for specific events rather than numbers simply to meet the team's roster requirement.

She anticipates the season with optimism. She is encouraged by the rigorous training the team accomplished fall term. She feels she has a group of talented freshmen, and is excited that the team will be training and competing on the new outdoor track. The track will also provide a great advantage in recruitment.

Goodman's goal is to finish the season ranked in the top five in the conference. In the absence of extensive injuries the team should do rather well. Academically and athletically the team is achieving great success, boasting eleven team members with a fall 2002 semester 4.0 GPA and four All-Americans.

Sherita Williams, a kinesiology major, is a senior with one year of eligibility remaining. She too has seen improvement in the team over the years. She is impressed with the outdoor track. With the increased public interest in track events, Sherita is proud to have fans come and enjoy meets held at the new field.

In responding to questions, the coach announced the dates of two upcoming home meets: April 5 and May 3. The May 3 meet will be at night under the lights. Usually for track meets, temporary bleachers are installed to supplement the permanent seating. There are currently 53 members on the team's roster; only 32 of whom travel. Ideally, Coach Goodman would prefer 40 players or so on the team.

Both Coach Goodman and Sherita left after their presentations.

Chair Kasavana referenced two letters from AD Ron Mason that were sent to the bowling and synchronized skating clubs to announce the Athletic Council's recommendation not to grant the sports varsity status.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Academic Compliance and Services Committee

No report.

### Planning and Equity Committee

No report.

## Communications and Operations Committee

Chuck Gagliano reported that the committee continues to discuss football ticket pricing and premium seating for Spartan Stadium.

## Drug Education and Testing Committee

Gary Ferenchick reported that the committee had met last Tuesday, with Coach John L and university general counsel Kris Zayko in attendance. Discussion pertained to the merits of hair, saliva and urine sample testing and the degree to which student-athlete privacy rights are infringed. The committee recommends continuing the use of urine testing as the primary testing format, and hair testing as an ancillary test in situations where there is suspected drug use and urine and saliva tests prove inconclusive. Ferenchick will soon deliver the drug-testing manual for the committee to review.

## **ATHLETICS DIRECTOR REPORT**

AD Mason reported as follows:

- Distributed the proposed football ticket increases for next year. Of special note is the zero increase proposed for student ticket prices. The proposed prices will place Michigan State in the top echelon of the Big Ten, fourth behind Ohio State, Michigan and Penn State. The Council voted in support of the pricing proposal.
- Reported on current discussion in the Big Ten to have all schools follow a 12-game schedule. Mason does not foresee a national football championship playoff being implemented in the near future.
- The overall GPA for the department was 2.95, moving the department closer to the 3.0 goal he has set. Mason complimented Smith Center Director Jim Pignataro and the Smith Center staff for the assistance provided in helping to reach the goal. AD Mason noted that the academic success of our student-athletes must be viewed as an essential measure of department success.
- Mason proudly announced that the department is ranked fifth in the Sears Cup Award recognition. This is the highest ranking to date that the department has achieved and is particularly noteworthy because not all MSU programs are fully funded. Traditionally, the schools that are ranked high in the Sears Cup competition have fully funded programs.
- Outlined some critical factors pertaining to the search and selection of the football coach. To begin, the number of coaches available was not extensive.

Next, background searches surfaced concerns, for example, discipline or rules violations, issues that would have been problematic for a head coach at MSU. The chances of a coach's future success were gauged using a number of different criteria. As illustration, coaches were rated highly if they had previously held a head coaching position; if they had had success at more than one institution; if they had left a college program, went to the NFL and returned to the college level; or if they had success in turning around a losing program. The list of top candidates included three NFL coaches and three college coaches. Coach John L's name was always included on the list. Regarding the coach's salary, Mason said that the market determines to a large extent what can be negotiated. He added that for the first time all aspects of the coach's income are enumerated in the coach's contract.

- In response to one question, Mason stated that he expects coaches' salaries nationally to continue to increase in the near future. In response to another question, he said that Coach John L. will be evaluated annually. Some factors that will affect his evaluation are the academic performance of the players, wins and losses, the student-athletes rate of progress towards their degrees, and the performance of his coaching staff. Mason reminded Council that a coach has two seasons where his success can be measured: the recruitment and competition seasons.

## **FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Chair Kasavana discussed two items that had been sent out previously. The oversigning of Initial Tenders in football and the proposed NCAA annual academic progress rate--a pilot study in which Michigan State University will play a role. MSU will provide data for its track and cross-country teams.

There were no comments from around the table.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith A. Williams  
Secretary