



ATHLETIC COUNCIL

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ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2003

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

ABSENT: John Lloyd, Edmund Outslay, Robin Poston

GUESTS: Tom Izzo, Tim Bograkis, Jennifer Smith

The meeting was convened at 7:30 a.m. The minutes of the April 3 meeting were approved as distributed.

Today's guests were head men's basketball coach Tom Izzo and student-athlete Tim Bograkis.

Coach Izzo reviewed his team's performance during the past season and prospects for next season. He commented on his team's outstanding academic grade point average of 3.06 and the graduation of several seniors this coming weekend. He also stated that next year's basketball schedule will be the strongest in the Big Ten and one of the toughest in the nation. Coach Izzo explained that his players try to stay on a four-year plan towards graduation since the NBA is not the only professional option they have (i.e. numerous foreign countries offer opportunities).

Izzo also discussed elimination of post-game campus behavior, athlete course scheduling difficulties, basketball staff changes, and relationship building with faculty members.

Student-athlete Tim Bograkis, a red-shirt junior majoring in advertising, came to MSU from Flint, MI. He mentioned the number of missed class days the team had to take as a result of Big Ten and NCAA tournament participation. Tim credited the team's continuing academic success to the coaching staff and SASS staff for their guidance in helping players learn to balance athletics with academics.

After their presentations, Coach Izzo and Mr. Bograkis left the meeting.

Jennifer Smith, Director of the Office of Compliance Services, handed out a document pertaining to compliance issues at Michigan State University and several reports, which she referenced during her presentation. The office is very much involved in several areas such as Admissions, rules education, violations reporting, and generally the education of the university community concerning compliance issues. Routinely every violation is reported to the NCAA. It is to MSU's advantage to report all infractions, major or minor, thereby gaining favor of the NCAA. In the past, Michigan State submitted more petitions to the NCAA than the other Big Ten schools combined. On the average, 50 petitions were made annually. Recently, that number has been reduced to 26 petitions annually. As part of the rules education efforts, compliance office staff meets with each team's coaches. It is important to have the individual meetings because the rules are different for each sport. The office also attempts to meet with all administrative units on campus and with other groups that are involved with student-athletes from recruitment to graduation. Biannual meetings are held with the student-athletes to cover items such as drug policy, year-end rules, and rules that pertain to absence during the summer. A probation report, audited by a group outside the Compliance office, is submitted to the NCAA as required each year. Having been placed on probation, Michigan State is regarded as a repeat offender whose infractions are considered more serious than those of a first time offender institution.

Smith also discussed the NCAA academic reform package. One item referenced is the number of course hours that a student-athlete is required to take towards a degree. For example, each semester a student-athlete must complete six hours toward the degree. If this is not done, the student-athlete becomes ineligible for competition the following term. The same is true regarding the completion of the required degree hours each year. A student-athlete becomes ineligible the next year if the requirement is not met. The student-athlete no longer has the flexibility to average the number of degree hours earned over a two-year period. Meeting these requirements is more challenging when required courses are not offered every term or every year. In addition, minimum GPA requirements must be met.

The third area discussed pertained to rules governing agent behavior. These rules are reviewed with both parents and student-athletes. Smith mentioned that Coach John L's policy is not to allow agents access to the program and student-athletes at any time. Compliance information is also disseminated to boosters via season ticket mailings.

At the end of Smith's presentation, AD Mason made additional comments. He reiterated that he has zero tolerance for infractions of any sort. The severity with which the university now looks at compliance issues has earned the respect of the NCAA. Both Mason and Smith mentioned that coaches are warned of the violations that will result in automatic termination.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Compliance and Services Committee

No report.

Planning and Equity Committee

No report.

Communications and Operations Committee

No report.

Drug Education and Testing Committee

Drug Education and Testing Committee Chair Ferenchick presented the revised drug education policy for student-athletes. He carefully reviewed changes to important elements of the policy, and asked for a vote of support given that the committee was scheduled to meet in late May to finalize its policy document. The revised policy was supported in principle by way of a motion. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Kasavana agreed to forward the revised document to VP Poston for final university action.

ATHLETICS DIRECTOR REPORT

Athletic director Ron Mason reported on the Spartan Stadium seating plan. The draft plan was leaked to the press and appeared in today's Lansing State Journal.

The appearance of the plan in the press makes it difficult to make changes to it. He stated that nonetheless changes will be made as necessary. Implementation of the plan is critical to the Department's handling of critical anticipated critical budget issues. For example, the university's plan to increase tuition by 10 percent will place an increased burden on the department's budget. Mason said that if the seating plan is not approved by the trustees, it is possible that the department might need to reduce its sports sponsorship. The plan has several parts. Those who have been season ticket holders for more than 50 years or more will not be charged premium rates; those who have had season tickets for 25 - 50 years will be allowed to phase in premium rates over four years. Mason mentioned that donors to the Ralph Young Fund will have premium rates reduced by virtue of the amount of their donations. Another policy item underscores the department's prerogative, not the season ticket holder's to decide who inherits the season tickets.

Mason stressed that access is still a key feature of the Spartan Stadium plan. The plan for premium seating involves only 21 percent of the stadium seating. Currently 46 percent of those who are seated in what is considered premium seating makes no financial contributions to the department. A major aspect of the plan is to reward those who support the department financially.

Mason is involved in staff evaluations of senior staff and certain coaches. He is interested in quality programs and their affect on the university. Alluding to comments made by coach Izzo and Jennifer Smith, Mason stressed the difficulty of determining graduation rates for student-athletes, especially being credited for the high GPA of student-athletes who leave the university before graduating. This statistic has never been included in the overall evaluation of department performance. Several plans are under review to provide a true picture of the department's success in academics. Currently the department boasts a 2.95 overall GPA, which is higher than the university overall GPA.

Regarding the department policies, Mason welcomed committee members to contact him whenever there are questions.

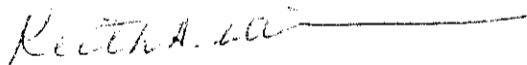
FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Chair Kasavana referenced and discussed the Big Ten Conference Academics Outcomes proposed legislation document. Discussion followed.

There was discussion about next year's meeting schedule. There were no other comments from around the table.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith A. Williams". A horizontal line is drawn across the end of the signature.

Keith A. Williams
Secretary