



# **ATHLETIC COUNCIL**

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## **ATHLETIC COUNCIL**

Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2005

**PRESENT:** Connie Currier, Rique Campa, George Eyster, Fayyaz Hussain, Mary Noel, Harold Sollenberger, Joan Garety, Eric Hinojosa, Liz Shimek, Kimberly Yake, Charles Gagliano, Michael Kasavana, Ron Mason

**ABSENT:** Liz Turpin, Keith Williams, John Breslin, Ted Tims, and Rob Maleczka

**GUESTS:** Dennis Banks (UCAP), Rita Arndt-Molis, Lisa Senakiewich

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

Guest head women's cross country coach Rita Arndt-Molis, who is in her second year at MSU, reported on her team's recent successes at the conference, regional, and national levels. She also discussed various aspects of her program including All-Regional selections, NCAA qualification procedures, and competitive philosophy. She introduced student-athlete Lisa Senakiewich, a sophomore from Davidson, MI majoring in Education. Lisa commented on the success of the Student-Athlete Support Services. Both student-athlete and coach commented on the transition from training for cross country in the fall season to training longer distances for indoor and outdoor track seasons. In addition, the coach also discussed how scholarship allocations, scheduling, and other responsibilities are managed among the coaching staffs of the women's cross country and track teams. It was noted that the women's cross country team has been recognized with the highest team GPA (3.50) and has had numerous Academic All-Big Ten and Academic All-Americans. In response to questions, the coach also discussed recruiting home visits, potential eating disorders, and the importance of team chemistry. Coach Arndt-Molis and Ms. Senakiewich left the meeting following their presentations.

Senior Associate Athletic Director Shelley Appelbaum reviewed a series of circulated documents with the Council, including the departmental organization chart, gender

equity plan, and minority issues plan. She also highlighted portions of the Departmental Gender Equity Annual Report and the Departmental Diversity Report. In addition, she provided findings derived from a review of the Life Skills Program and the department-wide Student-Athlete End of Season Surveys. Discussion followed.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Academic and Compliance Services Committee**

No report.

### **Planning and Equity Committee**

No report.

### **Communications and Operations Committee**

No formal report however, Chair Gagliano mentioned inviting the Council to a tour of the football stadium and office tower complex at Spartan Stadium once the project is complete.

### **Drug Education and Testing**

The committee forwarded recommends limited to a number of non-controversial, housekeeping-type changes to the existing DET policy document. The proposed changes from the subcommittee were unanimously adopted by the Athletic Council.

## **ATHLETICS DIRECTOR REPORT**

AD Mason mentioned that there would be a proposal to increase men's basketball ticket prices in the near future. He commented that an electronic ballot of support may be conducted if the proposal reaches the Athletic Council prior to its January 2006 meeting. The price adjustments would be effective with the 2006-07 season.

Mason reviewed both football and men's basketball seat licensing policies and pricing for premium seating sections. He further noted the positive impact these programs have had on the departmental budget.

Discussion relative to negative publicity surrounding the football program followed. Mason commented that a cultural change is in motion, but such change takes time. He remains confident Coach Smith is moving in the right direction.

## **FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Kasavana distributed and discussed two items: NCAA Alteration of Graduation Rates and Faculty Role in Sports Reform. Brief discussion followed.

## AROUND THE TABLE

There was inquiry and discussion related to the lack of advance notification given the Athletic Council prior to the announcement of WJR radio contract shifting to MSU coverage starting 2006-07. Commentary that University administration requested no notice be given to anyone outside the small working group involved in the transaction was presented. No other issues were raised.

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Kasavana". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray rectangular background.

Michael L. Kasavana (for Keith Williams)