



ATHLETIC COUNCIL

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ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2001

PRESENT: Rick Audas, Gary Ferenchick, Joan Garety, Charles Gagliano, Mike Kasavana, Ann Marie Kersten, Kurt Lausman, Jack Lloyd, Edmund Outslay, Robin Poston, Gaylan Rasmussen, Tom Schmidt, Elizabeth Turpin, Clarence Underwood, Francisco Villarruel, Keith Williams, June Youatt

ABSENT: Melvin Yokoyama (sabbatical)

GUESTS: Tom Izzo, Aloysius Anagonye, Lou Anna Simon

The meeting was convened at 7:30 a.m. The minutes of the October 11 meeting were approved as distributed.

Tom Izzo, head men's basketball coach and student-athlete Aloysius Anagonye, were today's guests. Due to an early appointment, Anagonye's presentation was first.

Anagonye attended DePorres High School and is a junior general business major from Southfield, Michigan. He represents the basketball team on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. The team's expectations of itself this year are no less than its expectations last year. The same is true of the team's expectations of Coach Izzo -- they expect nothing less from him this year. Anagonye's reasons for

coming to Michigan State were very personal; he felt there were some great people here. He feels that the Student-Athlete Support Services Center places MSU above other institutions. The tutoring program is efficient and provides a welcoming environment for the players. The building itself is beautiful and always clean.

In response to a question about mid-week games, Anagonye said that mid-week games create a strain that can eventually wear a player out mentally. However, he believes it is important for student-athletes to have established a good relationship early with professors in order to ensure better communication during stressful times.

Anagonye enjoys the balanced emphasis the coach places on academics and practice. In general, he is very pleased with his experience at Michigan State University.

Anagonye left the meeting after his presentation.

Tom Izzo began by distributing a poster “Champions in the Classroom” to each Council member. He stated the posters illustrate the principle theme in the basketball office. As a coach, he has always been interested in bridging the gap between academics and athletics. The posters depict the success the basketball program has had in meeting the challenge of bridging that gap. In this regard, from the student-athlete perspective, it is a most appropriate poster. He also mentioned that the academic and athletic performances of the players make them good salespersons for the program and for the University. Izzo commented that AD Underwood is very supportive and that Coach Ron Mason has been a mentor since he (Izzo) assumed the head coaching job.

Izzo mentioned that Duke is the program he emulates. In addressing the question about turnovers in the coaching staff, Izzo said the turnover situation is actually a credit to the program. All good programs experience turnovers. On the one hand turnovers interrupt the momentum of the program, on the other hand they speak to the program’s quality. Moreover, new coaches add a level of excitement to the program. Hiring outstanding former players is also something that good programs do. He feels that former star Mark Montgomery is a valuable addition to the coaching staff. He cautioned that the program must not take for granted the great support it gets from the University.

In answer to a general question about drug education and testing, Izzo said that MSU has in place a good program that is designed in the long run to help students. Normally, any group of students reflects the behaviors of society at large. Izzo feels fortunate, however, that there have been few cases of drug abuse identified in the program.

In response to a question regarding the aura of academic excellence enjoyed by some institutions, Izzo commented that the MSU tradition is something we should sell proudly. He said that when he meets recruits, he makes a habit of speaking to them about MSU's research, teaching, class size, atmosphere and other features. Building and maintaining tradition is a long process that we have only begun to explore and develop at MSU. We must promote the good things we normally take for granted.

Responding to a question about academic progress reports, Izzo said that he meets weekly with advisors and receives comprehensive progress reports that allow him to monitor his student-athletes' academic activity on a weekly basis.

Izzo departed the meeting following his presentation.

Provost Lou Anna Simon was the next guest. She began her comments by speaking further on the question of academic progress reports. She stated that much of this information is now placed on the web as more and more faculty are making use of a program called Blackboard. This program not only calculates new grade point averages but will also email recalculations to students who request the information. Simon reiterated a point made by Izzo that it is important that student-athletes be role models for each other.

Provost Simon talked extensively about advising student-athletes at MSU. She said that academic student-athletes' advising must be viewed in the larger university context at a time when greater attention is focused on identifying academic fraud, and the role of the academic advisor has undergone change. NCAA and Big Ten regulations have exerted some restrictions in this area, and the institution and the academic disciplines have imposed others. She discussed a range of issues pertaining to this very complex problem and ended her presentation with suggestions to guide future Athletic Council deliberations regarding this matter. The Athletic Council should:

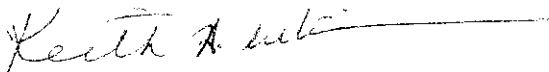
1. Determine what constitutes the equitable allocation of resources for student-athlete advising.
2. Determine reasonable criteria for success for student-athletes, for the program, and for the advising of student-athletes.
3. Determine the degree to which the Council will advise the Athletic Director on a variety of issues including class attendance, advising, etc.
4. Devise a system to encourage all factions involved to think globally. In other words to get more people on the same page to stop pointing fingers and placing blame, but to begin seeking solutions and developing collaborations to solve problems.
5. Review the Athletic Information System, taking note of the flexibility it provides.
6. Recommend rules changes pertinent to these issues or to any other issues.

She finished by saying that it is important that everyone take ownership of the problem.

Because of time, no other agenda items were addressed. Chair Kasavana said the remaining items would be discussed at the next Athletic Counsel meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 am.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Keith A. Williams", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Keith A. Williams
Secretary