



ATHLETIC COUNCIL

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ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2000

PRESENT: Rick Audas, Charles Gagliano, Joan Garety, Mike Kasavana, Edmund Outslay, Robin Poston, Gaylan Rasmussen, Gloria Smith, Elizabeth Turpin, Clarence Underwood, Michael Webber, Keith Williams, June Youatt

ABSENT: Bill Anderson, Sue Carter, Jack Lloyd, Chris Vanderpool, Damon Whitten

GUESTS: Jim Lutz, Ildiko Szekely, Demetrius Marlowe

The meeting was convened at 7:30 a.m.

Guests were Jim Lutz, head Men's and Women's Swim Coach, and Ildiko Szekely, a third year student-athlete from Hungary. Coach Lutz indicated he is pleased to be at Michigan State, and that he plans to raise the program to new levels of performance. To help finance his plan, he will cultivate strong alumni support to raise funds for the swimming team's needs. He will bring to bear 20 years of coaching experience to evaluate each swimmer's strengths and areas of need. His immediate goal is to raise the conference ranking of the men's and women's teams from last place last year to at least an eighth place finish this year.

Enjoying her third year at Michigan State, Szekely has noticed changes in the program from a student's perspective. The positive attitudes throughout the team she feels are attributable to the individual attention from coaches.

In response to a facilities question, the coach answered that Michigan State will need to improve its facilities in order to be competitive at the conference and national levels. He added that nearly every national contender has built new facilities in recent years. MSU's outdoor pool, on the other hand, being uncovered, cannot be used from the first week in November until spring.

From Coach Lutz's standpoint, roster management poses no problem.

After their presentations both the coach and the player left the meeting.

Demetrius Marlowe, the new director of Student-Athlete Support Services, was introduced. He is from New Jersey and grew up in a military family. He has had coaching positions at Bowling Green, Notre Dame, and Syracuse. He plans to use his expertise to create opportunities to build bridges between athletics and academics. In order to reach his goals, he intends to hire four additional staff, one of which will be the associate director of the Student-Athlete Academic Center responsible for academic support for football.

He mentioned that the department will implement a program to encourage former student-athletes to return to campus to complete their degrees. The department intends to run summer academic camps where high school students from the community will learn about the range of academic preparations needed to compete successfully as a student-athlete at the college level.

Athletic Director Report

Athletic Director Underwood reported on the following four items:

1. The seating plan remains a very complex and multifaceted concern with many issues yet to be resolved.
2. Michigan State presently does not have a program to encourage former student-athletes to return to school to complete their degrees. He plans to have funds secured soon to underwrite such a program.
3. By the end of this semester, a decision will be made whether or not to put grass in the stadium. Discussion continues regarding the merits of traditional grass, sod or synthetic grass. Obviously, there are advantages and disadvantages to each option. As illustration, drainage is much less a problem with artificial turf. Real grass will give rise to a secondary problem of accommodating other

sports like field hockey that also use the stadium. The question of grass or synthetic turf has become a recruiting issue, since many parents believe grass is safer despite statistics that show that one surface is no more safe than another.

4. To date, \$65,000 has been raised to fund the Rowing Team's boathouse on Grand River near Moores River Drive. Currently the university is negotiating with the city to get land on which to build the boathouse.

Subcommittee Reports:

Academic and Compliance Services

The report was given by subcommittee chair Smith. During the first meeting, the committee reviewed last year's accomplishments and spent time discussing the additional work needed to complete the mathematics initiatives.

Liz Friedman from the Smith Center and Judy Van Horn, from Compliance were present. The committee will continue to discuss the merits of the student-athlete exit interview since it is the last opportunity for the department to get feedback from the student-athlete.

Planning and Equity Committee

In the absence of subcommittee chair Carter, committee member Garety gave the report. The committee will review requests for varsity status from several sports. There was lengthy discussion regarding the role of the Athletic Council and how it determines varsity sports status. The Council's role has changed over the years and needs reviewing.

Communications and Operations

The subcommittee did not meet.

Drug Education and Testing

Subcommittee chair Anderson sent a written report.

The Drug and Alcohol Education and Testing Committee Subcommittee met on October 4, and discussed committee member replacements; a review of drug testing results; drug testing and education procedures for cheerleaders, trainers and

managers; establishing review procedures for the DIA's Drug Education Program; and setting future meeting dates.

Faculty Athletics Representative Report

Chair Kasavana discussed the following items:

- The Council committee assignments and the updated roster previously sent to all Council members.
- NCAA Academic Achievement Awards
- The NCAA graduation rate report and an article on student-athlete graduation rates.
- The legislative reception prior to the MSU-U/M game in Ann Arbor.

Around the Table

No significant issues raised.

The meeting concluded at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith A. Williams
Secretary