



ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Michael L. Kasavana, Ph.D., Chair

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

ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2003

PRESENT: Henry Beckmeyer, Charles Gagliano, Joan Garety, Mike Kasavana, Ann Marie Kersten, Jeanette Lantzy, Ron Mason, Edmund Outslay, Louise Selanders, Tom Schmidt, Elizabeth Turpin, Keith Williams,

ABSENT: Landon Bartley, George Eyster, Marvel Lang, Jack Pitts, John Revitte, Geraldine Zeldes

GUESTS: Steve Dilley, Shelley Appelbaum, Nicki Colson, Chuck Erbe

The meeting was convened at 7:30 a.m. The minutes of the September 4 meeting were approved as presented.

The first guests of the morning were head volleyball coach Chuck Erbe and team captain Nicki Colson. Coach Erbe mentioned that the squad had had a demanding pre Big Ten season schedule, having traveled to DC and Maryland and having participated in tournaments in Nebraska and South Carolina. The team's Big Ten start was less successful than had been expected yet expectations for the season remain high. Currently there are 18 student-athletes on the team, including 12 regulars and 6 walk-ons. He was proud to mention that the team's 11 academic all Big Ten is a conference record. MSU is one of three teams in last year's sweet 16 that had outstanding academic records. He continued that the team includes a student-athlete who has a 4.0 grade point average, one who is an honors college student-athlete, and another who is an astrophysics major.

Erbe talked extensively about the Jenison upgrades enjoyed by the program especially the locker rooms. Having training and locker rooms in one building is an enormous convenience for the team. Jenison now offers other improvements, including additional space, new murals in the tunnel, a new clearer sound system, and adequate parking.

Erbe introduced team captain Nicki Colson. Colson, a third year communications and business major, three weeks ago earned Big Ten and national player of the week honors. Her most memorable moment last year was attending the Athletic Department's Academic Gala. She has set a personal goal to become an academic Big Ten by the end of this season. Colson complimented the Student-Athlete Academic Support Center saying that it enhances everything the student-athlete is trying to accomplish academically. She particularly likes the fact that the staff is available daily without appointment for student-athletes seeking help. Both Erbe and Colson responded to questions from the Council:

Regarding the availability of tutors, Colson stated that during her first two years when she used tutors more, she found them always available. In addition, she felt that the SASS staff did an outstanding job finding compatible tutor student-athlete match-ups. Erbe emphasized another important aspect of SASS, that of conveying to the parents of prospective students the university's commitment to the academic success of student-athletes. In response to another question, Erbe said that the Big Ten programs are generally highly regarded in the NCAA, being viewed as strong, and well funded, with good coaches and players. The Big Ten schedule is normally difficult and is made even more intense by traditional rivalries. The conference is the national leader in attendance.

Erbe commented that roster management is not a concern for the volleyball program. He has been fortunate in having had many talented walk-ons; last year, he had to turn away 20 potential walk-ons. The program has 12 fully funded scholarships that are allocated by individual head count rather than by partial scholarships.

There was a comment not directly related to the presentations concerning the complimentary athletic event tickets that are offered to area schools for admission to MSU volleyball games. It was suggested that tickets be distributed earlier to allow the schools time to develop reading, writing or other contests for students to earn the tickets. Erbe and Colson departed the meeting.

Associate Athletic Director Shelley Applebaum presented two reports. The first was the spring 2003 Student-Athlete End of Season Interview Survey. Applebaum discussed several of its aspects including the 16 the questions added by the Athletic Council and those required by the NCAA. She mentioned that Gender Equity expert Val Bonnette continues to consult with the department regarding student-athletes' perceptions of the effect that academic instruction and advising have on their ability to perform. The second document presented was MSU's 2002-03 Gender Equity Annual Report. Applebaum led the discussion concerning the department's success in meeting gender equity guidelines. Applebaum departed the meeting following her presentations.

ATHLETICS DIRECTOR REPORT

AD Mason discussed a new ticket policy that has been implemented with the department staff of 180 members. No longer will staff receive complimentary tickets to all sports. They will continue to receive complimentary football tickets, however, and have their choice of either complimentary men's basketball or ice hockey tickets. They will continue to have the option of buying tickets to any sport. As a result of this new policy, \$100,000.00 is expected to be recaptured. Mason desires a similar policy for the Athletic Council. He asked that the Council give the proposal consideration. Should the Council give support to the proposal, it will become effective fall 2004.

Mason then discussed the department budget, mentioning that he continues to correct misperceptions about it. He stated that the department is self-supporting with a budget only five percent the size of the university's budget. The department pays to the University \$6.2 million annually in tuition fees, \$300,000 annually for the rental of Breslin, \$500,000 in parking fees and \$750,000 for housing and food services. It pays sizable amounts for printing and for general clean-up after each game. The department receives \$370,000 from Housing and Food Services, which is its share of concessions' sales. It was suggested that this information be distributed to hasten a greater understanding of the department's financial situation.

FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Kasavana reviewed the updated Athletic Council roster and subcommittee assignments for the year. He also referenced a report that had been distributed earlier concerning the academic majors of student-athletes. The report, he stated,

is a work in progress and will be monitored by the Academic and Compliance Services Committee. Kasavana also introduced Steve Dilley, the UCAP liaison to the Athletic Council. Dilley will attend Council meetings to provide increased communication between the Athletic Council and UCAP.

Due to time constraints, some remaining agenda items were tabled until next meeting.

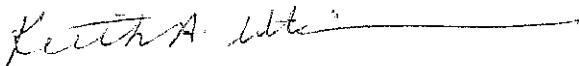
AROUND THE TABLE

Williams referenced the efforts made by Athletic Departments and Alumni Associations to promote greater fan civility. In this regard, the student leaders of the MSU student cheering groups, the Izzone, the Corner Blitz, and the Slapshots, are stepping forward to provide leadership of their groups' efforts.

There were no additional items from around the table.

The meeting concluded at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Keith A. Williams