Meeting Minutes
University Athletics Council
Friday, March 28, 2014
9:00am

PRESENT:  Austin Anderson, Christy Baker, Karen Bonnell, Brody Broshears, John Campbell, Alex Eaton, Katie Ehlman, Scott Gordon, Sandy Hatfield, Paula Nurrenbern, Kim Reddington, Laci Rogers, Sean Riley, Jeff Seyler

CALL TO ORDER:  Dr. Karen Bonnell calls the meeting to order at 9:00am.  Dr. Bonnell thanks all in attendance for coming and for the work they do in this Council.  Dr. Bonnell announces that several Council members are unable to attend today’s meeting: Mr. Jon Mark Hall is with the CBS production planning meeting for the Elite Eight, Ms. Linda Trible is doing new software training.  Mr. John Key is on vacation and Mr. Steve Bridges is unable to make it today.  Dr. Bonnell shares thoughts from an email message from UAC female student athlete Julia Kohnen, who is studying abroad in Harlaxton this semester.  Ms. Kohnen says she has had an amazing experience, explaining that they have class Monday thru Thursday and travel Thursday thru Sunday to different countries.  She says it is incredible to learn about all the different cultures.

Dr. Bonnell distributes unofficial minutes from November 25, 2013 meeting, and adds that minutes have been up on website for a couple of months.  Dr. Bonnell asks for any changes, recommendations to November minutes.  Motion to approve November minutes is made by Dr. Katie Ehlman, and seconded by Mr. Brody Broshears.  Minutes are approved.  Dr. Bonnell distributes these documents: University Athletics Council (UAC) Strategic Plan 2013-2016 Draft, March 28, 2014 UAC Meeting Agenda, and UAC Membership Roster 2013-2014.

UAC Strategic Plan 2013-2016 Draft

Dr. Bonnell sums us several wording changes that were made as a result of the discussions during November 25, 2013 meeting and asks Council for thoughts, changes, etc.  These addition wording changes were suggested and agreed upon:

Page One, first bullet under Fiscal Integrity and Facilities Planning Committee – Complete an athletics risk assessment under the guidance of the University’s internal audit staff which will identify risks and what develop mitigating strategies have been put in place to address them.

Page Two, second bullet under Student-athlete Welfare and Equity Committee – Increase transparency and visibility of the approved University gender equity policy such as through the USI website, MYUSI, and the Council and Athletics website.

Dr. Bonnell asks the Council if this strategic plan captures the spirit of what this Council is doing and what it hopes to do.  She explains that is was not her intention to make this a very long term plan; pointing out the date range in the title, 2013-2016...because strategies change.  Dr. Bonnell asks for a motion to approve the Strategic Plan with these amendments.  Motion to approve is made by Mr. Broshears and seconded by Dr. Ehlman and the UAC Strategic Plan 2013-2016 is approved by the Council.

Athletic Director’s Report

In Jon Mark Hall’s absence, Associate Athletic Director, Ms. Alex Eaton, is asked to report.  Ms. Eaton reports that the winter sports did well.  Men’s Basketball won the GLVC Tournament hosted at the Ford Center in Evansville.  The Men and Women’s Indoor Track teams and Women’s Basketball all had good seasons with Women’s Basketball just missing out on the post season.  Men and Women’s Tennis, Baseball, and Softball are all off to a good start and Outdoor Track begins this week.
Dr. Bonnell brings attention to the Membership Roster distributed today. She remarks how the adopted strategies for the strategic plan will only work through the existing committee structure. She adds that this is where close examination of issues takes place and then committees bring recommendations back to the Council for consideration. Dr. Bonnell expresses her goal that all Committees meet once before the end of this term and also that all Committees plan a meeting at the beginning of the fall term as well. Dr. Bonnell states that she doesn’t plan a Council meeting during the summer unless the need should arise.

Data Dashboard Task Force

Dr. Katie Ehlman reports that the task force met and asks for Council discussion regarding how the Council would like to display data in regard to displaying one year’s worth of data vs. displaying trend data; since the Council now has three years of data. Dr. Bonnell confirms that this Council has flexibility with the display of the document. After pros, cons, and suggestions are discussed, touching on ideas for different individual charts/graphs; consensus is that trend data would be more useful. Dr. Ehlman expresses that she will take to the taskforce the notion of adding two years of trend data to the current cross section, where they can.

Other suggestions regarding Data Dashboard: Dr. Jeff Seyler points out that on Page two, on the Academic Success Rate and Graduation Rate bar graphs, the order entries is different. On this same graph, Dr. Laci Rogers suggests that a definition of what these graphs exactly mean is missing. There is some discussion about display changes that might be necessary when adding trend data. Dr. Rogers proposes looking at some changes to format of graphs on Page 4 Facility Planning graphs. When asked, Dr. Ehlman states that they hope to have the data for this project ready by approximately April 1, 2014, with a draft to the Council, via email, by approximately April 15-20, 2014, with about a week turn around for edits for finalization by mid-May, 2014. Dr. Bonnell proposes April 30, 2014 for potential date of next meeting, and adds that if there is a draft available of this document on that day, perhaps the Council could take action on it then.

New Business

Ms. Christy Baker asks if replacement request was sent, as her term is ending this year. Dr. Bonnell replies that she will do this.

Dr. Rogers states that she is very glad to be a part of this Council and she is impressed with the work of the Council and the care given to gathering accurate data for the Data Dashboard. She adds that she doesn’t want to seem like she is nit-picking with her comments; that this work is probably the brightest service opportunity she has experienced in her years at the University. Dr. Bonnell thanks Dr. Rogers for her service on this Council.

Dr. Bonnell reminds the Council about a visit from Ray Simmons, the Sports Information Director, about a year ago. He was having trouble getting the help they need in getting videos out. Dr. Bonnell adds that she has discovered a student athlete who is a Radio/TV Major and might be willing to do an internship with Mr. Simmons. Dr. Bonnell would like to put this work on the schedule of classes listed as an internship in Sports Journalism so that students know that these opportunities are available. She encourages the Council to think of other areas where we can help develop relationships between students and Athletics and engage the faculty as well.

The meeting is adjourned at 9:38am.