

Meeting Minutes
University Athletics Council
Thursday, April 21, 2011
1:00pm University Center 2207

PRESENT: Christy Baker, Nadine Coudret, Steve Bridges, Brody Broshears, Kevin Celuch, Katie Ehlman, Sandy Farmer, Scott Gordon, Jon Mark Hall, Mary Harper, John Key, Jay Newton, Eric Otto, Kim Reddington, Linda Tribble, Jeff Seyler, Joe Wingo

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Nadine Coudret called the meeting to order at 1:02pm

MARCH 01, 2011 MINUTES

Dr. Coudret asked for any suggested changes to the minutes. No suggestions were presented. Minutes were approved. Minutes posted on website and committee reports on Blackboard. Thanks to Mary Jo Harper for her work on the Council website.

Dr. Coudret comments that she had opportunity to meet with Mr. Bob Oliver, who conducted NCAA Blueprint review visit. Dr. Coudret states that her impression was very positive. Dr. Coudret was impressed with Mr. Oliver and felt like he conducted a very scrutinizing visit, that he was not looking for "bad" things, simply better practices, or some things that might be alternatives or a better way of doing things. Overall, Dr. Coudret felt like Mr. Oliver was most complimentary to the athletic programs, Jon Mark Hall, Jay Newton. Dr. Coudret had the exit interview with Mr. Oliver. Dr. Coudret extends President Bennett's comments that she continues to track closely and extends thanks to the Council members for positive thrust toward full compliance and interest across campus.

ATHLETICS DIRECTOR' REPORT

Mr. Jon Mark Hall states that his reports will try to present the "hot topics" but if at any time during or between meetings members want/need to hear more he would be happy to provide.

Mr. Hall distributes handout detailing spring sports update containing the Great Lakes Valley Conference 2010-11 All-Sports Trophy Standings. With seven sports still in competition this spring, USI is currently in fifth place in a very tight race. Point range indicates a close race to the finish, hoping for some positive results in these remaining sports to make a difference in this race. Men and Women's Tennis, Women's Golf competes in Conference Tournaments this weekend. Baseball is at present, winning their (East) Division and ranked 2nd in the Regional Poll. Men's Tennis is ranked 2nd in the latest regional poll and should go in as the 2nd seed in the Conference tourney. Women's Golf team borderline on Regional appearance, not quite as good a season as they had last year but we have one individual that I know will make the Regional and they may have a chance as a team. All tournaments upon us.

Mr. Hall's report includes a side note on Track Men's Track and Field student athlete Dustin Emerick, a Junior. Dustin recently broke school record set by GLVC Hall of Fame member **Elly Rono's** in the 10,000 meters when he finished fifth in the Elite Invitational race with an NCAA II automatic qualifying time of 28 minutes, 41.62 seconds. Elly Rono, is arguably the most decorated student athlete to come out of USI on a National level. Dustin's time, which is the ninth-fastest in Division II history, ranks first in the nation and 13th in the world. A two-time All-American in cross country, Emerick also ranks sixth in the nation in the 5,000 meters. Mr. Hall tells of a recent article on Dustin, who is currently ranked number one in Division II, in *Running Times* magazine. He is also All-American in Cross Country.

Dr. Nadine Coudret asks for and Mr. Hall provides some insight regarding the formula used to calculate the point totals for the All-Sports Trophy race. Last time USI won this trophy was 2003. Competition has been dominated by Northern Kentucky and SIUE. SIUE is no longer in the race as they have gone to Division I and soon Northern Kentucky will do the same. Dr. Coudret comments that this seems to be a natural trend. Mr. Hall agrees.

Mr. Hall mentions that he has had some preliminary discussions with what is going to be a newly formed sports corporation called Evansville Sports Corporation who he has been meeting with regarding potential bids for hosting of Baseball championships at Bosse Field and the Basketball championships at the Downtown Arena. Mr. Hall feels like we can enter a competitive bid for Baseball. He will be meeting with Venue Works, the new management firm for the new Arena to talk further about these possibilities. Regarding the Basketball, lots of factors for consideration, obvious ones include rental costs and schedule.

Mr. Hall and Mr. Jay Newton recently met with Dr. Glenna Bower, Physical Education Dept. Chair, about trying to develop a really solid intern program for our entire department. Mr. Hall has also had some discussions with Dr. Scott Gordon, Dean of the Pott College of Science and Engineering about this. Mr. Hall and Mr. Newton are crafting job descriptions to post in the next couple of weeks with hopes of getting the Sport Management students more involved. Mr. Hall is certain that the Athletic Dept. can use their assistance.

The All-Sports Banquet, the end of the year banquet is scheduled for April 27, 2011. Some awards will be given to various student athletes. Mr. Hall also describes a Conference award, the Paragon Award which basically goes to the best men and women athletes who are graduating seniors. Mr. Hall announces that Tyler Choate, a member of our Baseball team, will be USI's nominee for this award. Tyler has his degree and is now in the Graduate program working on his Masters in Public Administration.

Northern Kentucky President did announce that they do have a proposal prepared to present to their Board of Trustees this spring to try to go Division I. Mr. Hall feels confident that Northern Kentucky's President knows that he has their Boards' support. Mr. Hall states that the NCAA moratorium that has banned the move from Division II to Division I for the last four years has been lifted this fall.

Mr. Hall, Mr. Brody Broshears, and Mrs. Randa Dallas will attend NCAA meetings later in May. Mr. Hall states that he does have concern over this move by Northern Kentucky in that the schools like us in the league are dwindling resulting in fewer people who have our same vision and values which can tend to complicate things. Mr. Hall says that when you look at the Institutions left in the League, Wisconsin Parkside, Missouri S & T, Missouri St. Louis, and Illinois Springfield, and even though they are public institutions they are not really any of the ones who were most like us.

Varsity Club Meeting is scheduled for tonight, April 21. Vote will be held to try to determine a higher level of giving. While monetary giving is open-ended, at present the highest level is \$2000. They plan to vote on a \$5000 level that would name a scholarship after the donating business or individual. Also to be decided will be raising \$125 membership level to \$150. Mr. Hall notes that Varsity Club membership is at 98% of their goal which is much better than last year.

Brad Wannemuehler, a member of the Baseball team will be the new male representative on the UAC. Mr. Wannemuehler could not make today's meeting due a class. He will replace Nick Duncheon on this Council.

Mr. Hall and Mr. Jay Newton report on Blueprint visit by Mr. Bob Oliver, who used to work for the NCAA and now owns a consultant business. NCAA outsources with him to do these type visits. At meeting time, Athletic Dept. had not yet received the official Blueprint report but, overall, positive feedback was given. Conclusive theme of the visit seemed to be that the Athletic Dept. does not have a lot of policies/procedures written down. Procedures need to be on paper. Mr. Hall states that a USI Compliance Manual needs to be completed by August, 2011 and he outlined a time table to complete that task.

Between now and June 1:

Mr. Newton and Mr. Hall will compile and review compliance manuals of peer institutions and review Compliance Blueprint Report

June 1 - June 22:

Mr. Newton will meet with critically involved offices on campus, i.e., Financial Aid, Registrar's, Admissions to discuss processes and procedures.

June 22-July 22:

Prepare draft of USI Compliance Manual

July 25 – August 5:

Draft to be reviewed by above mentioned offices and UAC Governance and Compliance Subcommittee realizing schedule/time restraints of involved departments and the Council.

August 8 – August 12:

Changes made to draft and final draft prepared.

End of August:

Manual dispersed to athletic staff during special staff meeting. Copies also distributed to all individuals and offices involved in compliance program.

Dr. Coudret recognizes the ambition of this task but states her desire that this document be available for distribution before the start of fall 2011 classes, August 22.

Mr. Hall regrets that this Blueprint review procedure has no follow-up visits. Dr. Coudret reminds that this visit is completely voluntary and in the spirit of striving to be the best that we can be.

Mr. Jay Newton explains that prior to Mr. Oliver's visit he sent Mr. Newton a list of documents that he would want to see while here. He, in addition to meeting with some of the departments on campus who work closely with Athletics, also met with several of the Coaches, student athletes. Mr. Newton stated that Mr. Oliver did have a few suggestions (while here) about some different, perhaps better, ways to document some procedures. One example involved coaches' practice logs.

Discussion continues regarding some general procedure guidelines, regarding recruiting, phone calls, texting, official/unofficial visits, and possible purchase of some helpful software. However, discussion reiterates that from an institutional standpoint, University has done what we can and need to do to be compliant. Dr. Nadine Coudret echoes that we continue to "bend over backwards" and work hard to indicate we are doing everything to be in complete compliance, expressing that the University cannot afford another bad situation. Mr. Jon Mark Hall is committed to producing this Compliance Manual and felt good about a lot of things as a result of Mr. Oliver's visit.

Ms. Mary Jo Harper states that (unfortunately) Financial Aid is audited every year so they must have their policies and procedure manual updated at all times. She extends offer of help to Athletics Dept. Mr. Hall says that we do have an existing policies/procedures manual; this is not the Compliance Manual. However, Athletics Dept. does have an intern in place and assigned to help with the updating of this procedure manual this summer. Mr. Hall states that he does appreciate offer of help from Ms. Harper and Financial Aid Dept.

Dr. Coudret closes that Mr. Oliver was very complimentary of Jon Mark Hall and Jay Newton and of this Council. Mr. Hall reiterates that Mr. Oliver expressed the same of the other areas on campus that he met with, most particularly Mr. Brody Broshears. Mr. Oliver had one suggestion regarding the University Athletic Council, which was that Jay Newton and Randa Dallas not be the Chairs of their sub-committees since also direct members of the Athletic Dept.

Mr. John Key states that he feels that Athletics has been extremely conscientious and he has nothing but compliments towards their efforts especially given the complexity of all things considered.

Mr. Eric Otto asks when no texting rule came about? Mr. Hall and Newton's answer is approximately two years ago and that after a recruit signs a National Letter of Intent and Grant-In-Aid, they can text.

REPORTS

Academic Progress and Integrity

Mr. Brody Broshears talked with Mr. Oliver mainly regarding the piece used in working with the Registrar's office to certify student athletes. Mr. Oliver seemed happy with policy in place but again stated the need for policy on paper. Also discussed was the absence policy, and student welfare on the academic side.

Brody Broshears reports that he, Jay Newton and Joe Wing, Senior Research Associate will be drawing from NCAA reports, compiling data for reports/information useful for the Council. Also working on compiling general USI data, as well as specific USI Athletic data for the Athletic Snap Shot; a marketing tool to be shared with donors, etc. Desire is for this to be similar to University Snap Shot but more specific to Athletics.

Mr. Broshears mentions the absence letter and says it appears to be working pretty well but they continue to check to see how the letter being used is actually working with all aspects of the absence policies. He mentions some course re-designs that might be beneficial and mentions a new version of MATH100 course that might work better for some student athletes because it doesn't have a required specific class time.

Mr. Broshears plans meetings with advising groups (the liaisons within each of the Colleges that work with Jay Newton on the advising side) and review the forms and processes in hopes of using these forms to help document some of the ways that we work together for the Compliance Manual.

Also, Mr. Broshears states that his Committee needs some new membership; possibly Linda Tribble replacing Jennifer Brigg. They also need a replacement for Dr. David Glassman. Mr. Broshears states possibility of Associate Vice President of Student Affairs or another Dean as this replacement?

Governance and Compliance

Mr. Jay Newton states this committee met on March 7 discussing upcoming Blueprint visit, reviewed some minor violations that Athletics have turned in from 2010. They reviewed some new legislation that has passed at the NCAA Convention and its effect on our coaches and student athletes. They were made aware of some pending waivers and their explanations and further discussed the desire for compliance software.

Student Athlete Welfare and Equity

Ms. Randa Dallas not in attendance. Ms. Katie Ehlman reports development work on gender equity policies and procedures; they have drafted some language and will be ready to send that information to Council members soon. Ms. Ehlman asks if USI has (campus-wide) Title 9 representative? Jon Mark Hall will check but says when Self-Study was done, HR was listed as Title 9 Rep. Ms. Ehlman suggests that whoever this representative is might be a good go-to person for anyone needing to report an incident and wishing to do so outside of the Athletic Dept. Mr. Hall agrees. Ms. Ehlman will check with Ms. Donna Evinger, Director of Human Resources.

Ms. Ehlman asks procedure for voting on their finished document as she states that it is nearly complete. Dr. Nadine Coudret states that the By-laws would allow for them as a Committee to bring the document to the entire Council for approval vote.

Facilities Planning

Mr. Steve Bridges reports working with Mr. Hall to make recommendations for Athletic Facility.

Awaiting arrival of data for EADA report. Mr. Hall reports document has been purchased (ordered) has not arrived yet, but expected anytime.

Fiscal Integrity – Plan to do risk assessment. Mr. Bridges has coordinated with auditors to get on the schedule; was hoping to do that this summer. Mr. Bridges acknowledges Mr. Hall's task of completing Compliance Manual this summer and expresses apprehension because of need for Mr. Hall's involvement in risk assessment project. Mr. Hall and Mr. Bridges agree that some of this work can be done parallel to Compliance Manual research/work.

Mr. Bridges met with Mr. Bob Oliver (Blueprint visit). One area of concern expressed by Mr. Oliver involved the use of student athletes in Concession stands and the money exchange. Mr. Bridges was able to dispel some concerns because of the fact that Sodexo oversees all concession sales. Other topic discussed with Mr. Oliver was coaches camps and how the University handles those.

Other

Membership

Brad Wannemuehler has been identified as male student athlete representative and Krista Cocco identified as female student athlete representative. Christy Baker, John Key and Jeff Seyler were identified as having 2 year terms. Dr. Coudret reminds that all members are eligible for two terms and expresses her desire to continue this group. Dr. Coudret asks these three Council members consider whether they are willing to serve another 3 year term and let her know by the end of April (next week.) If agreeable, Dr. Bennett would need to appoint these reappointments.

Dr. Coudret indicates a desire to consider amending By-Laws to allow Joe Wingo, Institutional Research representative, to become Council member and suggests that there may be more membership amendment considerations at the same time.

Dr. Coudret indicates that another meeting will be scheduled later in the summer before the start of school. Date will be decided and announced.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.