

Meeting Minutes

University Athletics Council

Thursday, June 3, 2010

1:00 p.m. University Center Rm. 206

Present: Kim Armstrong, Christy Baker, Linda Bennett, David Bower, Steve Bridges, Michael “Brody” Broshears, Kevin Celuch, Nadine Coudret, Randa Dallas, Nick Duncheon, Katie Ehlman, Scott Gordon, Jon Mark Hall, Mary Jo Harper, Sandra Hatfield, John Key, Jay Newton, Marie Opatrny, Eric Otto, Jeff Seyler.

CALL TO ORDER

President Bennett called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. She has asked Dr. Nadine Coudret to fill the role as chair of the UAC. She feels it is incredibly important for the council to move forward and feels that Dr. Coudret will be a good person to facilitate the goals of the council. President Bennett spoke of several key issues that the council will be facing in upcoming months, including the meeting in Seattle, WA regarding NCAA infractions and decisions regarding international students and their needs. She urged the council to move quickly on the bylaws. She also praised the baseball team for winning a national championship. President Bennett closed by thanking the council for their time and reminded the appointees that she would be available as a resource as needed.

APRIL 16TH MINUTES

Dr. Coudret addressed the minutes by asking the council members do a post-review and forward any suggested editorial changes to Kim Armstrong via e-mail if necessary.

GLVC LEAGUE UPDATE

Brody Broshears presented the update. On May 24th, Brody Broshears, Scott Gordon, Jon Mark Hall, and Randa Dallas attended the GLVC annual spring meeting in St. Louis, MO.

Mr. Broshears said that they had lively discussion concerning expansion within the league. The league has recently expanded to sixteen (16) teams. Discussions included whether they should continue to expand or if they should sit tight with sixteen teams and see how that number plays out during the season.

Mr. Broshears and Mr. Hall relayed the discussion regarding scheduling. The Council of President’s top priorities are: missed class time, cost savings, and competitive pairings. The FAR’s are concerned with missed class time; particularly with baseball. Any sport schedule changes require the FAR’s signature. The FARs will begin working more closely together to monitor missed classes.

Mr. Hall explained that each institution gave a report about discussions on their campuses in regards to NCAA divisional alignment and conference affiliation. Northern Kentucky University

indicated that they have been exploring the move to DI; however the financial climate in Kentucky is not conducive to that move in the near future. Dr. Coudret asked what the time line would be for an institution to move to DI. Mr. Hall answered that one (1) year would be typical.

NCAA – MEN’S BASKETBALL UPDATE

Mr. Hall presented the update regarding the men’s basketball infractions. He said that information he had will most likely be released to the press in the next week or two; therefore it is still considered confidential information at this time. The athletic department has received a Notice of Allegations from the NCAA. The department has until June 15th, 2010 to return a written response to those allegations. Mr. Jay Newton has been busy preparing a response.

On August 12, 2010, President Bennett, Dr. Gordon, Mr. Hall, Mr. Newton, and Coach Watson will travel to Seattle, WA for the final results of the NCAA’s findings. In essence, the NCAA will have two (2) months to evaluate the university’s response and thirty (30) days after the meeting to respond to the university with any additional penalties.

During the interviews, the NCAA found only one minor infraction, involving local transportation that was not included in the department’s self-report. Mr. Hall feels that this is good news and hopes that due to the harsh sanctions the basketball program has already suffered, the NCAA will not impose any further penalties in terms of post-season bans for the next academic year.

The “buzz” words in the NCAA are “institutional control.” Does the institution have control of the situation? USI does have institutional control, and the Notice of Allegations from the NCAA did not mention any lack of control. This is yet another good sign that the university has done everything in its power to handle the situation correctly.

Mr. Hall also reported that while at the GLVC spring meeting, he took an opportunity to express to the league his concerns regarding the conference’s harsh penalties. He researched similar scenarios and could not find a situation where another institution had faced such penalties. Mr. Hall charged the leaders to handle these situations fairly across the board, among all conferences in the NCAA. The general consensus of the GLVC members was that they agreed. Dr. Coudret mentioned that the actions of the GLVC leaders are not incentives for other institutions to be forthcoming with possible infractions.

NCAA SELF STUDY REPORT

Mr. Hall reported that Mr. Newton has been putting together the NCAA Self Study; a report that is due every five (5) years. The report consists of a series of questions for the athletic department to answer. Documentation is also gathered to back up the answers to the questions. This report is not sent to the NCAA, but it is sent to the GLVC and kept on file in the athletic department of the university.

Mr. Hall expressed concern about one portion of the study focusing on a gender equity plan. USI Athletics does not have a gender equity plan currently in place. This is an area where the Student Athlete Welfare and Equity subcommittee can set its focus.

Ms. Christy Baker asked which women's sports have scholarships and if that was the issue with the equity plan. Mr. Hall answered that USI has 7 women's sports that offer scholarships, but the equity issues fall with the percentage of females who participate in athletics compared to the percentage of females who attend the university. Mr. Hall gave the example that in the cross country/track programs, more males are inclined to "walk on" to the team without a scholarship. Both the men's and women's scholarship budgets are the same, but there are more male athletes than female. If the programs were capped at a certain number of male participants, it is not good for admissions.

DRAFT OF COUNCIL BYLAWS

Dr. Coudret stated that the bylaws should be generally open as to grow and allow amendments.

Bylaw I: Purpose: The wording was examined with regards to the words, "oversight," "promote excellence," "model...program," and "reports to the President." Dr. Coudret said that she would speak with President Bennett about the wording.

Bylaw II: Membership: Membership section was created using an example of another institution's membership.

Bylaw IV: Subcommittees: Dr. Celuch asked if the data dashboard should be a function of the Academic Progress and Integrity subcommittee, or if every subcommittee should be constructing a data dashboard. Dr. Coudret, Dr. Gordon, and Mr. Hall agreed that the development of a dashboard should be included in all the subcommittee functions.

Mr. Hall also added that the four (4) committees made sense in respect to President Bennett's charges to the council.

In regards to each subcommittee's duties, Mr. Hall revisited an issue with the NCAA self study report where it asks for comparative data of the Athletics Department's incoming freshmen versus the university's incoming freshman class. The Athletics Department does not have that information.

Dr. Coudret mentioned the importance of having a benchmark to compare from year to year. The data dashboard will assist in creating goals such as championships, academics, and diversity. It will create targets. Mr. Bridges and Mr. Bower suggested that these goals be added to the purpose statement in Bylaw I.

Bylaw V: Meetings: Dr. Coudret started the discussion as to how often the meetings would take place. Would the council meet in the summer? Should it be changed to a quarterly meeting to include a summer date? She asked the council to provide feedback.

Bylaw VI: Amendments: The council examined the wording, "shall become effective only after its approval by the President..." It was mentioned that the wording should correspond with that of the Purpose statement.

Dr. Coudret suggested that Ms. Armstrong send out an electronic copy of the current bylaws and have each appointee return their suggestions to Ms. Armstrong by the next Friday, June 11, 2010.

The council would like to have the bylaws approved by the first week of August; prior to the NCAA meeting in Seattle. A draft should be ready for the President's review by the first or second week of July.

Prior to the adjournment of the council meeting, the members were asked to meet in their committees and use the remaining time to begin the development of a plan and timeline for the committee work. The council agreed that each subcommittee should put together a data dashboard that could be used to develop benchmarks for the athletic program.

The council broke into committees at 2:20 p.m. Dr. Coudret asked each committee to elect a person who would send discussion notes to Ms. Armstrong to add to the meeting minutes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kim Armstrong