

Meeting Minutes
University Athletics Council
Wednesday, September 21, 2011
1:30pm University Center 2205

PRESENT: Karen Bonnell, Nadine Coudret, Steve Bridges, Brody Broshears, Katie Ehlman, Marco Lara Gracia, Jon Mark Hall, Mary Jo Harper, John Key, Eric Otto, Kim Reddington, Linda Tribble, Brad Wannemuehler

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Nadine Coudret called the meeting to order at 1:30pm. Dr. Coudret begins the meeting with introductions and welcomed two new members in attendance to the Council. Two new members attending today are Assistant Professor of Engineering, Marco Laro Gracia and Student Athlete Representative Brad Wannemuehler.

APRIL 21, 2011 MINUTES and AGENDA

Dr. Coudret asked for any additions or changes to the minutes. No changes were presented. Minutes were approved. Minutes and Agenda are posted on website and Committee reports on UAC Blackboard site. Dr. Coudret invited new (and returning) Council members to use the websites to review working topics of the Council. Dr. Coudret asked if there were any additions to the agenda and receives none.

ATHLETICS DIRECTOR' REPORT AND DISCUSSION

USI finished second in All-Sports Trophy standings behind Lewis University and had a very solid performance by all the teams. Our Baseball and Men's Tennis teams made the NCAA Tournaments in the spring.

Mr. Hall reported the following student athletes' academic stats:

- 59/260 student athletes finished with two consecutive semesters (fall and spring) with 3.4 or above GPA.
- 108 student athletes were GLVC Academic All-Conference award winners
- Women's Basketball finished with 3.512 GPA leading all teams, Women's Soccer was second with 3.4 GPA
- Men's Soccer and Men's Tennis finished above 3.0 GPA
- Overall GPA of 3.105 which is the highest we've had in a while successfully accomplishing goal

USI is hosting the GLVC Cross-Country Championships on October 22 at Broadway Softball and Intramural Complex.

All sports are presently participating in some kind of activity, whether they are in season or out. Men and Women's Soccer, Cross-Country and Volleyball are in the thick of their season. At this time, Women's Soccer is 3-1 and Volleyball is 3-2 in the conference. Men's Soccer is not off to a very good

start. This squad has seven young men who might have been starters who are injured; four of them out for the remainder of the season with knee injuries. Mr. Hall stated that the NCAA has shortened the pre-season in trying to fulfill "Life in the Balance" initiative intended to make things better for the student athletes. Mr. Hall states that he plans some investigatory work to determine if other institutions are experiencing more injuries due to less pre-season training. Dr. Coudret asked about off-season training that might be helpful, particularly given the fact that the pre-season is shorter. Mr. Hall explains that all of the programs do have off-season programs.

Dr. Marco Lara Gracia asked if there is something we can do in the future to lessen the number of injuries such as more training, change in training routines. Dr. Gracia also offered help with researching this issue. Mr. Eric Otto points out that we aren't even half way through the season. Mr. Steve Bridges asks about any connection to the playing surface. Mr. Hall explains that one of the Men's Soccer injuries was sustained at Bellarmine University on artificial turf but others were on grass.

Mr. Jay Newton and Mr. Brody Broshears attended GLVC meetings in Indianapolis last week. Northern Kentucky University is definitely trying to go to Division I. Mr. Hall feels certain that this change will happen and suspects it will be announced at January 2012 League meetings. It is not certain when this switch would be effective, but Mr. Hall feels it would be fairly immediate as current members of GLVC have been asked not to include NKU when scheduling contests.

Kentucky Wesleyan has been going through an exploratory year looking at switch to Division III and has also openly discussed the prospect of starting a new 6-8 team DII league comprised of all private schools. This arrangement would mean less teams but more travel. Mr. Broshears states that staying in the GLVC was KWC's least desirable option, with beginning a new league being number one, and switching to Division III being second. Mr. Jay Newton states that there is new (NCAA) legislation coming in that will limit the number of teams in a league so that could influence KWC's desire to move quickly. Ms. Mary Jo Harper states that KWC is experiencing some serious financial problems. She feels that this could influence their decision. Mr. Hall stated that he was surprised that they were considering forming a new Division II league. Mr. Hall explained that if Northern Kentucky drops out of the GLVC, it would allow room for McKendree. This would influence travel and travel partners.

Varsity Club has undergone a major push this summer to generate funds. The Varsity Club has met its commitment to scholarships over the years. But, to do this over the last few years they have had to dip into their reserve funds. The memberships in the Varsity Club go to scholarships, the outside events that we have, i.e., the Steak Fry and Fall Festival proceeds go to 'anything' called a promo account which can be used for anything. Over the years, some funds from promo account have been used to meet scholarship obligations causing this account to dwindle. This year, we added a \$5000.00 giving level to our Varsity Club. The previous highest level had been \$2000.00. Mr. Hall is happy to report that we have had four commitments to that \$5000.00 level and probably a dozen commitments to increase giving amounts, i.e., \$500 up to \$1000, \$1000 to \$2000. Steak Fry and Auction fund raiser last week are projected to be a record profit with a record attendance of five hundred people. Emit Edwards donated a Winnebago that was auctioned off for about \$5000.00. Mr. Hall will have a more complete report at the next meeting.

Mr. Hall reported that Basketball season ticket sales are “just so-so” right now so plans to hit that harder in the next month or so as season start draws nearer.

Mr. Hall reports that Athletics Department is behind in producing the manual(s) that they committed to completing in the spring. While the documents are not ready to present, work has been done and will continue. Mr. Hall apologizes that these documents are not ready for distribution to the Council. Dr. Coudret asked if Council members could help. Mr. Hall stated that he feels that the Athletic Department will get the job done but he might call on some members if necessary.

Dr. Coudret asked how information is distributed to the Varsity Club members (fans) regarding NCAA compliance rules. Mr. Newton explains that he meets with the Varsity Club Board at the beginning of the semester and discusses with them the dos and don'ts and assigns them the task of sharing that information with their membership/neighbors. Also compliance information is posted on website. Dr. Coudret explained her interest because of the issues that have arisen on national level, problems with fans ignoring or not knowing the rules. Mr. Newton speaks with each student athlete at the beginning of the year. Dr. Coudret asks student athlete rep Brad Wannemuehler if he feels like most athletes understand these rules? Mr. Wannemuehler stated that he does believe that most athletes understand and cited a personal example of an occurrence this summer. Mr. Hall stated that most of the time the occurrences we see at this level are quite harmless and innocent. He feels like Athletics does a good job with Mr. Newton meeting with every team. He added that perhaps they might think about doing an extra meeting or explanation at a basketball event, setting up a certain time where people who meet in the Varsity Club could be provided information about this. Dr. Coudret encouraged this idea and stated it would demonstrate good faith efforts to prevent violations.

Dr. Coudret asked if Mr. Hall is concerned about USI's fit in the conference and the potential changes that are occurring. Mr. Hall stated that he DOES have concerns and if/when Northern Kentucky University leaves the League, there will be even fewer institutions “like” us, not only in respect to Athletics but in a lot of other aspects, i.e. philosophies, mission statements. The only public institutions left in the GLVC will be USI, Wisconsin Parkside, Missouri S & T, Illinois Springfield, and Missouri St. Louis.

Dr. Coudret suggests that perhaps after compliance, policies and procedure manuals are complete; we may want to consider a task force, to look at USI's membership in the GLVC conference in the long term.

Mr. Hall states that he likes Division II but pointed out that the schools in the GLVC who were most like us have now gone Division I which again presents the issues of working with schools so very different than we are. Mr. John Key asked where Bellarmine is now in making a change to Division 1. Jon Mark replied that due to money restraints and other issues that Bellarmine has not yet committed to Division 1. Mr. Key noted that there are no other new schools coming into the GLVC that ARE like us. Mr. Broshears states that geography of the League is also an issue. We used to be located geographically in the middle of the conference teams but now we're in the east.

Ms. Mary Jo Harper states that she agrees with Dr. Coudret in that we need to keep this issue on our radar and be constantly monitoring and thinking about where we may fit in the future. Ms. Harper also

pointed out that the financial landscape, especially with federal and state aid is changing. It is going to impact most Universities that receive Title 4 aid including USI. She feels that a lot of these issues need to be high on our radar so that we can position ourselves to be where we need to be and to know where we may want to position ourselves in the future. Jon Mark Hall agreed. Dr. Coudret stressed that the compliance manual and written policies and procedure manuals are necessary regardless of our league affiliation. Dr. Coudret again indicated that after the required basics are completed, that a task force to study conference membership issues be appointed.

REPORTS

Academic Progress and Integrity—Dr. Ehlman reported that a draft of the Gender Equity Plan has been prepared and will be posted on the BlackBoard site.

Mr. Brody Broshears stated that both he and Mr. Hall plan to meet with the Faculty Senate to update them on the student athletic programs and the faculty's role in supporting the program.

The meeting was adjourned.