

Meeting Minutes
University Athletics Council
Monday, April 29, 2013
1:00pm

PRESENT: Christy Baker, Karen Bonnell, Steve Bridges, Brody Broshears, John Campbell, Alex Eaton, Katie Ehlman, Scott Gordon, Jon Mark Hall, Sandy Hatfield, Julia Kohnen, Paula Nurrenbern, Kim Reddington, Laci Rogers, Jeff Seyler, Linda Tribble, Brad Wannemuehler

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Karen Bonnell calls the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Dr. Bonnell distributes today's meeting agenda, updated Data Dashboard, and unofficial minutes from Feb. 25, 2013 meeting. Dr. Bonnell asks for any changes, recommendations to February minutes. Motion to approve February minutes is made by Dr. Laci Rogers and seconded by Dr. Jeff Seyler. Minutes are approved.

Dr. Bonnell reminds that several Council members service terms are expected to expire at the end of this spring term. She comments that this is a good group and asks those to consider to continue serving but also asks that anyone not able to continue, please send her a replacement recommendation.

Dr. Bonnell asks the Council to take a look at the latest draft of the Data Dashboard project and begins discussion regarding edit changes. She thanks the Council for providing all of the information for this project. Dr. Bonnell states that when this Council was first organized, Joe Wingo was part of it, serving as ex-officio. In regards to gathering data for this project, Dr. Bonnell proposes to the Council that Joe Wingo be asked to rejoin this Council. She explains that it would not be absolutely necessary that he attend every meeting but particularly in the start of this Dashboard project, his presence would be very beneficial. Council members agree.

Specific Data Dashboard edit suggestions are discussed in length by all Council members. Mr. Jon Mark Hall and Ms. Alex Eaton agree that it is okay to use the GLVC logo. Dr. Bonnell will gather some additional information from Joe Wingo and John Baburnich, incorporate some pie charts, get some new photos from Athletics. Steve Bridges will make some esthetic changes to a chart. All changes decided upon will be incorporated into Data Dashboard draft and sent out electronically to all Council members by Dr. Bonnell.

Strategic Planning Goals

Dr. Bonnell asks each Committee Chair to speak on their specific strategic planning goals which are included in the meeting minutes from Feb. 25, 2013.

Academic Progress and Integrity

Mr. Brody Broshears addresses strategic goals: **Goal #1 – "Fostering faculty advising and advising center personnel"** and **Goal #2-"Athletic degree audit process in each college"** involves their Committee discussions about how Athletics is interacting with the new Advising Centers on campus as well as faculty advisors. **Goal #3 – "Expanding the data dashboard to include graduation rates and post-graduation data."** Mr. Broshears comments that his Committee intends to expand and articulate this data: when/where it is snapped and what it actually represents. **Goal #4-"Improve areas for academic services and for career services such as peer coaching and graduate assistants."** Mr. Broshears explains that this goal highlights work that they are specifically doing in Academic Skills with Peer Coaching and University Division advising programs. Mr. Broshears shares that Career Counseling is being integrated into University Division advising. **Goal #5 – "Creating bulletin language specific to student athletes such as the absence policy."** Mr. Broshears plans to try to get on the Faculty Senate agenda for the fall to begin having some discussion about the overall absence/attendance policies and something specific in the bulletin about the absences of student athletes.

Fiscal Integrity and Facilities Planning

Mr. Steve Bridges distributes handout describing his Committee's plans to accomplish their strategic planning goals.

Goal #1-Risk Assessment – Complete an Athletics risk assessment under the guidance of the USI Internal Audit staff which will identify risks within the USI Athletics area and what mitigating strategies have been put in place to address those risks. **Goal #2- Program Development** – Develop a process for providing input from the Fiscal Integrity and Facilities Planning Committee with requests for new Athletic programs or the further development of existing programs. **Goal #3 – Operational financial monitoring-- review all audit findings** - Develop Athletic financial operational monitoring criteria and procedures to evaluate those as a subcommittee as well as process for reviewing Athletics audits and a process for sharing the highlights of both with the Athletics Council. **Goal #4-Facilities assessment/recommendations** – Develop a formal plan for periodic Athletic facility assessment and determine a method of sharing observations and making recommendations to improve or change those facilities as necessary.

Governance and Compliance

No report available today.

Student-athlete Welfare and Equity

Dr. Katie Ehlman proposes transferring her Committee's original strategic planning goal of "Space for student athletes for outside shelter during practice/games" to the Fiscal Integrity and Facilities Planning Committee. Mr. Steve Bridges agrees that this Committee could certainly take a look at this item. With this transfer, Dr. Ehlman adds a new goal for this Committee which is printed as Goal #4 below.

Dr. Ehlman provides a handout elaborating on this Committee's Strategic Planning Goal Statements. **Goal #1-"Evaluate USI gender equity policy on an annual basis to include areas outlined in the policy such locker rooms, fields, scholarships, etc."** **Goal #2--Review nation-wide "best-practice" programs offering emotional and academic support to NCAA student athletes.** **Goal #3-"Increase Transparency and visibility of approved USI gender equity policy (i.e. through USI UAC website.)"** **Goal #4-"Provide leadership and advocacy, raising awareness of and providing resources to address issues related to equitable opportunities, fair treatment and respect for LGBTQ student-athletes, coaches, and administrators and all others associated with USI Athletics Programs (language taken from Champions of Respect-Inclusion of LGBTQ Student-Athletes and Staff in NCAA Programs.)"**

Dr. Bonnell thanks all Council members for their hard work on the Strategic Plan. She will work with others to complete and to add some formal language and try to get a draft out to members later this summer with hopes of approving/ publishing this Plan on the website by beginning of fall semester.

Athletic Director's Report

Mr. Jon Mark Hall reports on two events held in April. Scholar Athlete Luncheon honored all athletes with a 3.5 or higher GPA and was co-sponsored by Academic Affairs. Allison Nord, Softball student athlete, spoke on behalf of the student athletes regarding her USI experience. Also held in April, was the annual All-Sports Banquet. Honored are all student athletes that have any sort of recognition throughout the year. This year included in this Banquet was a guest speaker, Howard Griffith. Mr. Griffith is a sports analyst for the Big Ten Network and played football for the University of Illinois, and in the NFL for eleven years, including two Super Bowls. Mr. Hall felt like Mr. Griffith did a good job, really on target. Included in this evening were awards to Student Athlete of the Year winners, Eagle Pride Award winners, Team GPA, Team Spirit Award winners.

On the fields, Mr. Hall reports that USI Men's Tennis team hosted NCAA Regional for the first time in school history and won it, advancing (also for the first time in school history) to the Sweet Sixteen round in Arizona. Baseball is ranked second in the Region, Softball starts the GLVC Championships this weekend and if the season ended today, they would be in the NCCA tournament. Track and Field's Michael Jordan is an All-American multiple times over.

He posted a qualifying time for USA Track and Field Championships this past weekend, having a great Spring. USI is hosting the GLVC Baseball Tournament at USI and Bosse Fields in early May. We hosted the GLVC Basketball Championships in March this year. Currently, Mr. Hall reports that USI is tied with Lewis for second place in the All-Sports Trophy. Indianapolis is in first place, USI is five points behind them. Indianapolis received seven points because they won the football championship. Mr. Hall reports that the GLVC is adding Swimming and Diving as Championships, two sports that USI doesn't field; consequently making this competition much tougher next year. Mr. Hall reiterates that if we did want to try to add a sport, i.e. swimming and diving, it will be nice to have the help of this Council to establish a process. Mr. Hall adds that ultimately it would be the duty of the Athletic office to take the lead on such a project. Dr. Bonnell agrees with Mr. Hall that this Council really needs to take a look at what role they could play to possibly help with this process, and she adds consultation with President Bennett. Mr. Hall adds that balance is also an important part of this process explaining that we wouldn't want to hurt any of our existing programs. Mr. Hall states that discussions with Mr. Steve Bridges have been helpful with early research. Dr. Bonnell adds that perhaps this important topic should be added to next meeting agenda.

New Business

Alex Eaton reminds that the Blueprint had charged this Council with approving the manuals for Athletics – *Student Athlete Handbook*, *The Compliance Manual*, and *Policies and Procedures Manual*. Ms. Eaton states that one of these manuals is finished, the other two should be complete soon. She asks what procedure this Council would like to use to approve these manuals? Discussion to determine the Council members desired method to accomplish this approval settles on electronic distribution, discussion via email/Blackboard, ultimately ending with an approval vote. Dr. Bonnell will send email to remind Council members to view and give feedback as quickly as possible. If there are issues that cannot be addressed via email, a meeting will be called.

Meeting adjourned at 2:02pm.