

Meeting Minutes
University Athletics Council
Monday, Nov. 5, 2018
10:00am

PRESENT: Austin Anderson, Brody Broshears, Alex Eaton, Katie Ehlman, Caleb Fendrich, Andrea Gentry, Jon Mark Hall, Lauren Hambrock, Ron Rochon, Mat Santoro, Jeff Sickman, Rashad Smith, Eileen Weber, Linda Willis

CALL TO ORDER: Katie Ehlman calls the meeting to order at 10:00am

MINUTES: Katie Ehlman asks for consideration of the meeting minutes from April 11, 2018 with Jeff Sickman's subcommittee meeting notes attached. Motion to approve April minutes is made by Brody Broshears and seconded by Caleb Fendrich. April minutes are approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Thanked everyone for serving on this committee.
- Discussed a phone call recently with the NCAA regarding USI and issues of compliance. This body knows about the violation that we were cited with last year. When Dr. Rochon met with coaches, he told them that compliance is a non-negotiable. We will always maintain an understanding of compliance.
- Mentioned being at a conference recently in Washington, D.C., where he heard Dr. Wallace Loh, President of the University of Maryland, College Park campus, who had resigned recently due to a death of a student-athlete. Dr. Loh made it clear that what he learned about the toxicity of the environment, culture, and the sport that there were problems. Dr. Rochon feels like we have the supportiveness for our students here at USI from what he was seen and be around.
- We should recruit students who are sitting next to their peers in the classroom. The students should feel like they have the intellectual capital to survive, thrive, and succeed in the classroom. He wants to be part of system where student-athletes can come and get a degree. We all know that most of them will not leave this institution playing professional ball.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Men's and women's soccer teams have had some great success. Men's soccer team will find out today where they will be playing in the NCAA tournament. Men's soccer won the GLVC regular season title for the first time in 25 plus years. Women's soccer made the GLVC final four for the first time in 19 years.
- Men's cross country won the GLVC title for the 14th straight year. Women's cross country streak did get broken this year, but had won 7 in a row; however, plan to start the streak next year.
- The renovation of the PAC has been going well. He is hopefully that we can get a few basketball games in but realize that we might not open it until after the season. Hope to start the second phase of the renovation this spring.
- Lindenwood that's in St Charles, MO will be joining the GLVC in 2019-20. Next year when Lindenwood and Southwest Baptist start that will bring us back to 16 institutions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fiscal Integrity and Facilities Planning

- Meet on the 31st of October.
- The bonds for phase 2 of PAC renovation should be issued in February 2019.
- Committee discussed the strategic plan revenue study that was reported on at April 2018 meeting. There was really nothing that was astounding that came out of the study. They did focus on two things: 1) if we are going to do a similar study every 2 or 3 years to look for trends that might be emerging that we need to be attentive too, and 2) focus on a few things that we found from this such as sport camps and how revenue is generated from those.

- Committee will be undertaking a swimming and diving study like the revenue study. A College of Business student (undergraduate or graduate) will help to complete the study. Hope to have a report in the latter part of spring semester.
- Committee will begin facilities study in fall 2019.
- Committee reviewed copied of several financial reports looking to make sure the proper controls and steps were in place as an oversight committee.
- Committee discussed ticket pricing for new arena, and how we should be tiering things. Brian McGuire offered assistance from College of Business faculty to help with pricing strategies.

Student-athlete Welfare and Equity

- Meet on the 18th of October.
- Committee recapped LGBT educational initiatives. Completed with athletic department staff in August. Next step is bringing education to student-athletes in the spring. Discussed former UMSL transgender athlete Ryan Logan as a possibility. Will reach out to other campus entities that might have an interest when solidify who will be brought in.
- Committee discussed the thoughts and revisions for the Gender Equity Monitoring Plan. Agreed that the original plan was a good first step. We learned that we need to gather more information from the student-athletes' perspective. Will be working a draft to bring to the entire committee for consideration in the spring.
- Committee talked a little bit of strategic plan specifically facility and program design. Thinking ahead for new construction since at this point the PAC is beyond this planning stage.

Governance and Compliance

- Meet on the 30th of October.
- Committee talked about the recent athletic audit from internal audits. Which lead to changes in the grant-in-aid process which have streamlined the process. Hopefully makes simpler for coaches and student-athletes as well.
- Committee talked about improvement on pay out book stipends. Much more automated and easy process. Will be reviewing the way that student-athletes board aid is distributed to get it on the same page as the rest of the aid. More beneficial and easier to understand for the student is the ultimate goal for all these new processes.
- Committee discussed making sure that when disseminating information to different constitutes to make sure that it is efficient and reaches the target audience. Talked about monthly newsletters to student-athletes and including information on financial aid not just athletics aid in one this year. Mentioned emails to advisors to discuss NCAA eligibility requirements at a glance.

Academic Progress and Integrity

- Committee did not meet prior to entire Council meeting.
- Talked about the areas that this committee is continuing to be active in including Darrin Sorrells and peer coaches and athletic department Career Programming for student-athletes.
- Committee will discuss how DegreeWorks and the new audit process can help be used for NCAA eligibility for student-athletes.
- Committee will dig in on more USI Bulletin specifically language, policy, or procedures that have an impact on student-athletes.
- Committee will continue to monitor and look at student-athlete absences including student-athletes and when they are placed in concussion protocol.

Dr. Rochon brought up the GLVC PSAs on mental health called #SomeoneToListen to that were released by the conference in the fall, and Council watched the USI specific PSA featuring softball student-athlete, Jennifer Leonhardt.

No old issues were addressed. Katie Ehlman brought up one item for new business – the Council website which houses a ton of information over the Council's ten-year history. Council members could choose to go paperless instead of printing paperwork.

Meeting is adjourned at 10:46am.