

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
Minutes of Athletic Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 21, 2015
Lobo Club Board Room
1:00pm

Members Present: Paul Krebs, Finnie Coleman, Amy Neel, Tim Goldsmith, Marie Lobo, Nick Schlereth, Janice Ruggiero, Ryan Swanson, Michael Rocca, Henry Villegas, Dawn Martinez, Janet Poole, Gig Brummell, Aasha Marler, Yannick Roggatz, Undergrad/SAAC Rep, and Karl Sep, ASUNM.

Absent: Jeffrey Long, Mike Thomas, Jessica Marshall, Phillip Felipe Gonzales, Todd Seidler, Karl Hinterbichler, and Jackie Hood.

Guests: Ray Birmingham, Head Men's Baseball Coach.

Staff Present: Dennis Dunn, University Secretary's Office.

AGENDA ITEM/DESCRIPTION

MINUTES/ACTION TAKEN

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order @ 1:00pm by Council Chair, Finnie Coleman. A motion was made by Mike Rocca to approve the minutes from September 23, 2015, and seconded by Ryan Swanson. The motion was approved, no abstentions.

RAY BIRMINGHAM
HEAD BASEBALL COACH

Coach Birmingham began his presentation by stating that the baseball program is doing well.

The "Cherry & Silver" series will occur October 31 thru November 1, 2015. There will be dignitaries at this event along with honorary coaches in the dugout. The Saturday, October 31st game and Sunday, November 1st game will begin at 1:00pm.

Finally, Coach Birmingham made a plea for everyone involved with UNM to "reach out" beyond Albuquerque to assist with recruitment efforts. We would like more involvement with such towns as Roswell, Artesia, Farmington, and other small towns in New Mexico. We would like them to be involved and support UNM.

FINNIE COLEMAN

CHAIR REPORT

Though he has only been the chair of Athletic Council for a brief amount of time, Finnie expressed how impressed he is with the Council's reputation among UNM's coaches and the university administration. He stated that the council as a whole should probably not get involved with recruitment, but as individuals there is much that can be done. He will be meeting with all of the Athletic Council subcommittees and at that time will discuss specific goals for the council. Amy Neel suggested the council can do outreach to the student-athletes through the team Liaisons. Developing a plan on how the liaisons outreach can be consistent with each of the teams.

A discussion followed about the problems and procedures of interacting with the faculty on behalf of the student-athletes. Gig Brummell suggested that the Council invite a member of the Regents to each meeting, along with coaches and assistant coaches to discuss interaction with the faculty. Finnie suggested that this discussion continue and be put on next month's agenda.

PAUL KREBS

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Paul opened his presentation by letting the council know he had just left a meeting where discussion was held regarding the installation of a restaurant, in the parking lot, on the west side of the football stadium, across from the Isotopes Stadium. A decision should be made in the next couple of months with the possibility the restaurant will be opened by next fall. Athletics also plans on going before Lobo Development in November to seek their approval on a long awaited baseball clubhouse. Both the financing and fundraising are in place, along with a design. This could grow into a large entertainment venue, with additional vendors and events taking place, such as the broadcast of away games on large screen TV's. Paul also mentioned that the land south of the Pit has been purchased by UNM, which will offer more parking for the stadiums. Plans are in the works to develop this area over the next few years, bringing in grocery stores, restaurants, etc., to serve SE Albuquerque and the area surrounding the sports complex.

Graduation rates will be released in 10 days, and they are quite positive and encouraging.

AMY NEEL

FACULTY ATHLETIC REPORT (FAR)

Amy reported that she has spent the last few months working on policies with Henry Villegas and Dawn Martinez. This involves managing any improprieties, or appearance of improprieties, between athletics and academics in the wake of the scandal at the University of North Carolina. In particular, they have been working on a written policy that prevents coaches from contacting faculty members about grades or classes. She has also been working on exam proctoring by athletic department staff, for student-athletes who have to miss exams. Since she is outside the athletic department Amy has taken on the proctoring responsibilities and has asked for volunteers from the Athletic Council who could step in for her when she is not available to proctor. This service is available not only for UNM student-athletes but also for student-athletes from visiting universities who are here for a game.

One of the bigger things Amy has been working on is the NCAA proposed changes to the Academic Conduct Policies for the University. This represents the first changes of the policy since the early 1980's. These changes will emphasize penalties for the involvement of athletic staff, coaches, and institutional staff in academic misconduct. They are also specifying that the university must have, and adhere to, their written policies for the general student body. They are trying to better quantify what impermissible academic assistance means for student-athletes. Amy will send members of the council a copy of this NCAA legislation for their review. This will be voted on in January 2016. Paul added that the real problem is in trying to determine what institutional responsibility is, where and when the NCAA should weigh in on the matter, and what written policies UNM (and other universities) have on this matter. Amy proposed that the Athletic Council subcommittee on Academic Integrity review UNM's current written policies and that she, the subcommittee, and people from the Dean of Student's Office meet to make sure that these policies are up-to-date and reasonable for both the general student body and the student-athletes. The Academic Integrity subcommittee agreed to review the policies.

HENRY VILLEGAS

GRADUATION RATE REPORT

Henry began his report by handing out copies of the UNM graduation rates from 2005 thru 2015 (on file in athletic administration for viewing) and then walked the council through the numbers. The report breaks down the graduation rates for male student-athletes, and female student-athletes. The overall student-athlete graduation rate is 66%; the highest it has ever been for UNM. Female student-athletes had the highest graduation rate at 80%.

MARIE LOBO & HENRY VILLEGAS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Marie and Henry began their report by handing out copies of their draft document entitled "Language for Policy of Coaching Staff Contacting Faculty". (On file in athletic administration for viewing) Marie stated that she and Henry liberally used wordage from the "Report of Factual Findings of Investigation into Alleged Improper Contact by Rutgers Head Football Coach with a Faculty Member." September 15, 2015. Paul Krebs took issue with line 18 of the draft document, which refers to faculty making contact with any coach or Athletic Department personnel. He feels that if a faculty member reaches out to a coach that the coach should respond to the faculty member and not be subject to disciplinary action. The draft document states that the faculty member be immediately referred to the Athletic Academic Success office, rather than have contact with the coaching staff. Discussion on this issue followed on the wording of this draft document with suggested edits. Marie and Henry will re-write the draft document based on the suggestions given by the council members.

LIAISON REPORT

Janice Ruggiero met with the soccer team last Wednesday, October 14th. Finnie Coleman met with the football team and Brian De Spain, Director of football, in preparation for his taking over the liaison duties for Marie Lobo when she retires. He also met with the ski team. He also met with the Assistant Coach for the ski team. Marie Lobo was contacted about students who were suspended from last week's football game. She reported that the issue that caused the suspension has been dealt with and they will play in the next game.

LIAISON REPORT

Aasha Marler reported that the Student Activities Center (SAAC) is working on nominating an all-star faculty team who strongly support athletics and they will be recognized at a future football or basketball game. Karl Sep reported that Associated Students of the University of New Mexico (ASUNM) is working on ways to get the students more involved in going to athletic events. They are working on better communication with the students to inform them of the availability of free tickets to events. Lobo Spirit is also working on increasing attendance for football games through pep rallies the Friday before the game.

ADJOURNED

Finnie asked for a motion to adjourn. Janice Ruggiero made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Mike Rocca. The meeting adjourned at 2:35pm.