

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO  
Minutes of Athletic Council Meeting  
Friday, April 2, 2015  
Lobo Club Board Room  
9:00am

Members Present: Alfred Mathewson, Paul Krebs, Michael Rocca, Daniel Barkley, Aasha Marler, Karl Hinterbichler, Amy Neel, Tim Goldsmith, Todd Seidler, Phillip Felipe Gonzales, Jackie Hood, Marie Lobo, Janet Poole, Nick Schlereth.

Absent: Jeffrey Long, Mike Thomas, Jessica Marshall, Kendall Spencer, Janice Ruggiero.

Guests: UNM President Robert Frank.

Staff Present: Dawn Martinez, Henry Villegas, Rita Chavez and Dennis Dunn.

AGENDA ITEM/DESCRIPTION

MINUTES/ACTION TAKEN

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OPENING

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order @ 9:00am by Alfred Mathewson, Chair.

ALFRED MATHEWSON, CHAIR

The Council meeting was opened by introductions of the Council and the guest UNM President Robert Frank.

MEETING MINUTES:

March 6, 2014 minutes were approved, by a motion from Daniel Barkley and seconded by Michael Rocca. There were two abstentions.

ALFRED MATHEWSON, CHAIR

Alfred began by reviewing the work he and Amy Neel have been doing in order to oversee the student-athletes academics due to the scandal in North Carolina. He then explained that he has also been reviewing the council's charge and how the charge is fulfilled. These duties include reporting to the Faculty Senate, which he did on April 24, 2015, and reporting to UNM's president.

These duties include:

- Monthly council meetings;
- Three sub-committees
- Annual exit interviews with the student-athletes once they graduate
- Each Council member is a sport liaison

## ALFRED MATHEWSON, CHAIR (cont.)

- Alfred explained his presentation before the Faculty Senate on April 24<sup>th</sup>. He reported on the tremendous academic success of UNM's student-athletes. He reported on graduation rates and team GPA's. This past fall all but one team has a GPA of 3.0. Basketball has a team GPA of 3.0 for the first in several years. He also reported to the Senate on financial grants and aids. He then turned the meeting over to President Frank.

## ROBERT FRANK, PRESIDENT OF UNM

- President Frank opened by stating that when he was a faculty member at the University of Missouri, he served on that school's version of the Athletic Council, and he is pleased for the invitation from UNM's Athletic Council. He also reported that he, and Paul Krebs, meet on a regular basis and Paul presents all the information Alfred listed, in detail. Amy Neel has also met with the president recently concerning academics, but he appreciated meeting with the entire council.

Items he then touched on included:

- Meeting with Paul Krebs to discuss the budget for athletics and Cost of Attendance and what the differences between other MW Conference schools are.
- He is quite pleased with the academic performance of UNM's student-athletes and reports on this every chance he gets;
- He stated that he is a strong supporter of athletics and he does not support dropping athletics due to budgetary concerns;
- Athletics offers scholarships to students who would not usually have access to the university; and
- He commented on the good work done by Amy Neel in ensuring academic integrity, which she took over from Breda Bova when Breda retired, and the good work Henry Villegas does in this area, too.

**President Frank then asked for comments from the council.**

Phillip Felipe Gonzales asked how the president found the attitude in the legislature towards athletics. The president reported that the attitude is largely positive. Paul added that there are a lot of individual legislators who support athletics and will use their capital outlay for athletics. This will amount to well over one million dollars. The president mentioned that though the athletic programs are recognized state wide, more emphasis on academic programs and health care at UNM needs to be promoted.

Karl Hinterbichler asked, in regards to Cost of Attendance, about the Presidential Scholarships and how these monies could help Cost of Attendance. President Frank stated that it hasn't been considered but that it is a good idea that warrants further investigation.

Alfred asked, in regards to the issue of paying student-athletes, how the university is addressing this issue. Paul explained the difference between a full grant and aid vs. Cost of Attendance through a Q & A segment. Athletics is also in the process of sending a letter out to all of its donors explaining Cost of Attendance. These letters will be sent out between now and the end of the summer. Paul has also done an interview with the Albuquerque Journal in which, he explained Cost of Attendance.

Phillip asked if the president participates in any of the NCAA councils. President Frank responded that he sat in on the vote on how to split up Cost of Attendance, as the NCAA representative, in Indianapolis. He stated that Mountain West has a president's meeting, twice a year, to discuss sports issues and elect a representative to go to the NCAA meetings. Currently that representative is Stan Albrecht, President of Utah State University, and the appointment is for two years. There is an annual meeting in Washington, but President Frank has not yet been able to attend this meeting.

One issue President Frank brought up is the issue of television coverage for UNM sporting events. This is still a work in progress that would greatly aid UNM and bring in additional revenues to the extent that Cost of Attendance would no longer be an issue. He mentioned that losing Colorado State University from the Mountain West conference cost eight hundred thousand dollars to the conference and one hundred thousand dollars to UNM alone.

President Frank mentioned that at this point the Mountain West conference is very strong and doing well. Alfred asked the president if there has been any discussion about continuing the basketball tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada. He replied that it is being discussed and Paul added that the contract is up for renewal but no other city can match the financial resources of Las Vegas. The city pays for all of UNM's expenses under the condition that both the men's and women's teams compete in the tournament.

Nick Schlereth asked if there was a way of publicizing the good works of the students to the conference and the community stakeholders. Could this be a way of generating additional revenue? Also bring on national sponsors. The president replied that he has not really looked into this issue from that direction but felt Paul might have more insight. Paul reported that the entire issue of Cost of Attendance is catching people off guard but that UNM does have people actively reaching out to national sponsors. He said that part of the problem with Cost of Attendance is that for many universities, such as the Air Force Academy or Utah State, Cost of Attendance is not the problem that it is for UNM. He mentioned that the Olympic Sports at UNM are currently under discussion in order to justify the costs. In addition, he stated that many schools around the country are dropping Olympic Sports due to the extra costs.

This concluded the discussion with President Frank.

AMY NEEL, FACULTY REPORT

Amy stated that she had no major announcements today, but the points she covered were:

Division 1 Statistics – the National Basketball Association (NBA) has a very low number of recruits from high school and, in 2005, a minimum age requirement of nineteen years of age was instituted, with an additional requirement of being one year out of high school. Less than one hundred players have been recruited this way. The NCAA is not happy about this requirement and they claim that since 2010 only six universities have had players leave for the NBA. Thirteen from University of Kentucky, three from Duke University, two from Texas, two from Arizona and two from UCLA.

## AMY NEEL, FACULTY REPORT

The NCAA Division 1 does not see this as a major problem, but sites transfers as the bigger problem. Twenty percent of players transfer in their first year of college and forty percent of players transfer in their second year which, affects educational goals. There is a proposal to raise the minimum age limit to twenty but the NBA is not in favor of this.

Paul stated that the bigger problem in basketball is the lack of scoring in the games. This causes a down turn in attendance and people state the games are not as much fun to watch anymore. To counter this there are discussions to introduce a “30 second shock clock” which would affect how the games are officiated. The problem is that today the players are so big and strong and athletic that basketball is now more of a contact sport which cuts into the scoring and there by the enjoyment of watching the games. The Coaches’ Association is currently discussing the “shock clock” option. In regards to the transfer issue, which he calls epidemic in college basketball, he believes the NCAA is going to have to institute a rule that all transfers will be required to sit out a year before resuming play on a team. This ruling should reduce the number of transfers.

## HENRY VILLEGAS, ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT

The Scholar Athlete Banquet will take place on April 27, 2015 at 7:00pm in the SUB.

This banquet will recognize the outstanding academic achievement of UNM’s student-athletes. At this time 68% of student-athletes have a GPA of 3.0. Discussion followed regarding publicizing this event.

Social media is being used to publicize UNM events:

Alumni Association – 160,000 members

Facebook – 80,000 followers in Athletics

Twitter – 20,000 followers in Athletics

Local media are also contacted to publicize UNM events.

## ALFRED MATHEWSON

Exit interviews are scheduled for Thursday April 23, 2015, 7:00pm – 8:30pm at the Student Services Success Center, across from the WisePies Arena aka The Pit. A second session is scheduled for Monday April 27, 2015, Noon – 1:30pm in Johnson Center, room B-102.

## LIAISON REPORTS

Marie Lobo reported that she will be attending this year's Football Fiesta, which will be held at the UNM football stadium, on the evening of April 17, 2015. Families are invited and there will be a scrimmage and a BBQ at the south end of the stadium.

## NEXT MEETING

A Doodle Poll will be sent out requesting dates for the first week in May.

## ADJOURN

10:10am