

**UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO**  
**Athletic Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**Zoom Conference**  
**2:30 PM – 4:00 PM**

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## **Minutes**

**Council Members:** Ryan Swanson, Brandi Fink, John Benavidez, Tamala Bos, Janet Poole, Karl Hinterbichler, Matthew Borrego, Todd Seidler, Ann Gibson, Lindsay Smart, Michael Rocca, Monica Cyrino, Gig Brummell, Gregory Romero, Emma Spotts, Ross Sinclair, Sara Nottingham, Janice Ruggiero

**Absent:** Monica Cyrino, Michael Rocca, Abigail Lutz, Gregory Romero

**Athletic Dept. Staff:** Chris Baca, Eric Schultz

**SAAC President:** Gwen Maly

**Guests & Minutes:** Mary Dorado – University Secretary’s Office

- 1. Opening and Call to Order .....Mike Rocca**

Mike opened the meeting at 2:32 pm.

  - **Quorum was met.**
  - **Approval of Agenda..... Mike Rocca**

Agenda was approved unanimously.
- 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes..... Mike Rocca**
  - April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting minutes – Approved Unanimously
  - May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting minutes – Approved Unanimously
- 3. Athletic Chair Report..... Mike Rocca**
  - As there were many new faces on the committee, Mike asked that everyone go around and introduce themselves.
  - Mike thanked Ryan for stepping in during Mike’s absence during the Spring Semester. Especially in light of the onset of the Pandemic and handling Athletic matters expertly during the turbulent time.
  - The Athletic Council has created a Microsoft Teams page. It is Mike’s hope that this will be a one stop shop for the Athletic Council in which documents that are often used by the Council, documents that should be available to all members, and any documents that can provide a historical record for future Athletic Councils so that they can a context for why things were decided the way they were. To add to this, Mike is also compiling any articles that since the beginning of 2020 that refer to the Pandemic and intercollegiate athletics.
  - The Council will not be working on any major action items this year, instead, the focus will be keeping the lines of communication open to students, alumni, and the Athletics Department.

**4. FAR Report/Introduction.....Sara Nottingham**

- Sara noted that in the last FAR meeting she had, it was announced that SAAC put forth the proposal to adopt the Russel Rule. The Russel Rule came out in the Mountain West Conference that is focused on diversity, specifically in hiring. A few challenges were mentioned in adopting this initiative, such as local rules and regulations, so the topic was tabled for the next meeting.

**5. Compliance Report.....Eric Schultz**

- Eric reported that the transfers were a large shift because students have not been allowed to transfer, then begin playing right away. In order to have been able to play right away, the student would have had to file a waiver with the NCAA, waivers that would only be approved due to things like financial hardship and others, in order for the student to be able to play right away. Trouble would arise when universities began “selling” the idea that they could get a waiver that other universities could not, resulting in athletes going to whichever school could make it so that they could play right away. As a result of this, the NCAA has removed the need for a waiver to be approved before an athlete could play right away after transferring.
- For Spring 2020, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021 athletes have been granted a year of additional eligibility to play due to the Pandemic if they were in their Senior year.

**6. LCSAS.....Chris Baca**

- Chris shared that the Fall GPA was a 3.37 for the department and the Spring GPA for the department was a 3.55. Even though these are uncertain times, Chris is incredibly proud of her students who are still pushing for academic success.
- Tutoring has had to move to a virtual tutoring model in light of the stay at home orders. Chris feel that though virtual tutoring is far better than none at all, she feels that this is not the best option for many of her students. The office is open for students to come and meet and work with advisors, however it is not open for tutoring sessions.
- After sending a survey to students on how they felt about the switch to only online classes, their responses were that they felt they had more work than before, were spending more time on their homework, but were learning less. Unfortunately, students who have not typically struggled, are not experiencing difficulties in school.

**7. SAAC Report.....Gwen Maly**

- Gwen shared that SAAC has been meeting every other week over Zoom and have been trying to focus on unity in among the different sports as well as how to support mental health.
- Athletics schedules have been unpredictable as they are able to practice and play, but then have to shut down again due to the orders passed down by the Governor. Because of this, SAAC has been trying to share their experiences so that one sport does not feel like they are alone in the uncertainty.
- They are also working on creating a “Unity” video that will promote the diversity of all of the athletic students. They are hoping to share this on social media.

**8. Athletic Director's Report.....Eddie Nuñez**

- Eddie shared just how proud he is of the student athletes. From testing to how they have had to conduct themselves in public, he said that they have done such an unbelievable job.
- Due to the spread of the virus, the Football team has had to cancel their first game due to the new requirements made by the Governor. While this is a frustrating set back, Eddie is proud of how hard his players have been working to follow regulations so that they could help prevent the spread of the virus.
- Eddie thanked Gwen for really working to help unite Athletic, by creating videos, connecting teams, and really trying to promote community in this time when feeling connected is difficult to achieve.
- The safety steps that the Athletic teams are taking, who are currently in play and have consistent interactions, is making sure that they get tested from COVID every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. By doing this, they hope that they will be able to catch any infections early to help prevent further spread.

**9. Liaison Roles and Responsibilities .....Mike Rocca**

- One of the most important responsibilities of the Athletic Council is the Liaison Roles as it allows the Council to develop relationships with all of the Athletic teams.
- To help facilitate the sign up, Mike has posted the Liaison Roles in a place that everyone can sign up to work with a team that interests them. In addition to this, the responsibilities documents of the liaisons is also available on the Microsoft Teams.

**10. Other Business:**

- No new business was introduced.

**11. Adjourn**

3:54 pm.