

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
Athletic Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 18, 2019
Administration Conference Room
South Athletic Complex-Colleen J. Maloof Bldg.
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Minutes

Council Members: Mike Rocca, Eddie Nunez, Jackie Hood, Lindsay Smart, Gig Brummell, Ann Gibson, Amy Neel, Janice Ruggiero, Gregory Romero, Todd Seidler, Janet Poole, Ryan Swanson, Raj Mahto

Absent: Paulita Aguilar, Karl Hinterbichler, Matthew Borrego, Rachel Montoya, Brayden Merritt

Athletic Dept. Staff: Amy Beggin, Chris Baca,

Minutes & Guests: Natasha Dark – SAAC President, Mary Dorado – University Secretary’s Office

- 1. Opening and Call to OrderMike Rocca**
Mike opened the meeting at 2:30 pm.
 - **Quorum was met.**

- 2. Approval of Agenda.....Mike Rocca**
 - The Agenda was approved without change.

- 3. Approval of the April 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes.....Mike Rocca**
 - The minutes were not approved from April 24, 2019 as the minutes were misplaced during staffing changes in the Office of the University Secretary.

- 4. Athletic Chair’s Report..... Mike Rocca**
 - Mike began his presentation by welcoming the committee members back and introductions of both old and new participants. While there was still one council student member vacancy, Natasha let the committee know that there would hopefully be someone filling the position soon.
 - Athletic Council 2019-2020 Goals were asked of the committee during a quick brainstorming session. Goals that were asked to be considered were:
 - Continued involvement within their teams, and valued input from the committee members about the student in their athletic roles. Maintaining open dialog – Eddie Nuñez
 - Student athlete mental wellness – Mike Rocca
 - Athletics’ Budget – Mike Rocca
 - Become familiar with new regents – Gig Brummell

5. Athletic Director's Report..... Eddie Nuñez

- Eddie and his staff have been working on welcome back events for student athletes and kicking off the year on a positive note.
- Hired a new coach for swimming and diving and is very excited to have her. She is jumping in and getting very involved with her athletes.
- Had a Gala in July with 500 people in attendance, which is 100 more than has ever attended in the past. 100 or so people who attended had never attended an athletic gala, or other sports related events before. The fundraising from the gala exceeded the amount ever raised before by raising over 70k, which Eddie hopes to use for mental health.
- Eddie has been working with the state legislators, pushing for more funding for both student athlete mental health and nutrition as that is where he feels the program is most lacking. He hopes to raise money through multiple funding sources: HSC, students, state legislators, donors, and the University itself. He feels that this is not only important to student athletes, but all students.
- Lobos for Life is another thing Eddie is focusing on, helping the students be prepared for life after athletics. SAAC is stepping in and helping to make this initiative a strong one and Eddie is excited to have student athletes very involved in this initiative as they are taking an active role in their future. The Lobos for Life initiative focuses on community service, mentoring, etiquette, and anything else that would help the athletics' students succeed after they leave UNM.
- Eddie was proud to share that the football students' GPAs went up from a 2.54 to a 2.97 over the past spring semester, and a 3.07 over the summer. He understands that there are other colleges' football teams are beating these GPAs, but he is proud of the team because they made a commitment to improve and the data shows that they have strived to better themselves.

6. FAR Report.....Amy Neel

- Amy reported that the Attendance Policy did go out for campus comment, and because of comments made, the Attendance Policy will have to be revised and sent out for another campus comment.
- Amy talked to SAAC about their rights as students to lodge a dispute on a faculty member about any academic problems, especially attendance issues. She discussed the process in place to file such a dispute so that they would have the tools needed to defend their rights.
- Many students are unable to pursue the degree paths they wished to, or must postpone following these degree paths, as a consequence of unfair treatment by faculty members.
- Amy asks that Mike follow up with the chair of the Policy Committee to find out where the Attendance Policy is in the approval process.
- The President announced a new procedure for the FAR, but is unsure of what the new procedure is. The FAR report may not be finalized until the Spring of 2020.

**7. Associate Athletic Director of Compliance Report.....Amy Beggin
(for Eric Shultz)**

- On the compliance side, they have certified all of the student athletes using a new compliance software called ARMS. This software is used in other areas of the department, like the business office, and has really streamlined the process and made it easier to connect all the pieces.
- Gig Brummell took the opportunity to congratulate Amy Beggin for becoming an inductee into the UNM Letterman Hall of Honor.
- Amy reported that the mentorship event would be taking place later on that night, and explained that this event was to help students meet mentors from their chosen career fields and will get to do job shadowing with those mentors and at the end of November will be doing mock interviews with their mentors.

8. Director of Lobo Center for Student-Athlete Success Report.....Chris Baca

- Chris reported that the total men's GPA was a 3.07 and women's was a 3.51 making the over all GPA of student athletes a 3.27 for the Spring Semester. This is 28 full semesters of student athletes having over a 3.0.
- Women's swimming and diving had an overall GPA of a 3.71 and women's golf had an overall GPA of a 3.94 gaining them national recognition as the women's golf had the highest GPA in the sport in the country.
- 135 scholar athletes were honored at the banquet in the Spring, making it the 8th year in a row with that large number of scholar athletes.
- Five sports had a perfect 1000 APR. Men's and women's golf got national recognition for finishing top ten in the NCAA and APR.
- All the sports were above the 930 make UNM has for the APR scores.
- Chris is excited that UNM has started a graduation program that gives students athletes who are 30 hours or closer to graduating money to help them finish their program to help boost our graduation rates and APR points.
- Chris reported that they changed their Study Hall policies, allowing the students to be responsible for themselves, and their actions, by letting them complete work before coming to Study Hall, then getting it checked, or having them complete work and discussing just the difficult portions with mentors. She also explained that a goal she may want to present to the Athletic Council is how to keep track of students, and their progress, while still allowing students to be accountable for their choices.

9. SAAC Report..... Natasha Dark

- Natasha reported that some of the main things SAAC has been focusing on are the issues many student athletes are experiencing with their professors along with working towards getting mental health, and nutritional care for student athletes.

10. 2018-2019 Academic Report..... Mike Rocca

- Mike points out that one of the main functions of the Athletic Council, as stated in the council's charge, is to provide the University President with a report on the state of student athlete's academics and in his memory while being on the committee, they have not yet done this. To remedy this fact, he created a report for the Council's review and input.
- The report is based off of five measurements. The measurements were graduation rates, GPAs, APRs, observations from senior exit interviews, and highlights Chris Baca provided.
- It is Mike's wish that they use this data to focus on things that the Council can work on, and follow through on, through to the end of the year. For example, the gender gap that shows how much higher female GPAs are to the males' GPAs and the fact that the gap is far greater among athletes than on main campus. Another is the APRs for baseball, cross country, and football where their APRs are dangerously close to dropping below a 930 score. He would like to use this information to actively help the student athletes in ways that faculty can and would like the Academic subcommittee to really focus on this.
- Mike would like to find out what the variances in the data is related to. He would like to see if it is something as simple as coaching changes, or if it is something more systemic happening. For example, on a national level football and basketball have a lower level GPA than any other sport, possibly related to a racial and ethnic divide.
- Natasha mentioned that other schools' athletic departments are partnering with the department of diversity to explore these variances in data that Mike has mentioned and Natasha is attending the SAAC Mountain West Conference and is willing to report back on what she learns on this topic.

11. 2018-2019 Student Athlete Exit Interview Report..... Mike Rocca

- Mike reported that the participation rates were amazing and that the whole process was very streamline. By finding a time based on the athlete's availability really helped with the participation rate.
- Eddie mentions that a lot of the data collected points to the fact that many students wished there was access to mental health, which further emphasizes the need to make that a priority for the Academic Department.
- Mike feels like a lot of things on the list from the exit interviews that could be remedied quickly with a little effort from the Athletic Council.

12. Other Business:

- *IPPRA and what materials are subject to IPPRA.*
- *Mike asked that someone step up to being the tennis liaison*
- *Use the liaison guide when you talk to your team until it can be finalized.*
- *Sticking to the same groups for the subcommittees.*

13. Proposed Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday, October 9th, 2019

14. Adjourn

4:06 pm.