

**UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO**  
**Athletic Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, October 13, 2021**  
**Zoom Conference**  
**4:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

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## **Minutes – Final**

**Voting Council Members:** Ryan Swanson, John Benavidez, Matthew Borrego, Todd Seidler, Lindsay Smart, Michael Rocca, Gig Brummell, Eric Schultz, Eliza Rice, Monica Cyrino, Diego Pena Parr, Karl Hinterbichler, Eliza Rice

**Absent Voting Council Members:** Brandi Fink, Tamala Bos, Janice Ruggiero, Janet Poole

**Ex-Officio, Guests & Minutes:** Eric Schultz, Eddie Nunez, Felisha Martinez –  
University Secretary's Office

**1. Opening and Call to Order**

*Ryan Swanson*

Opened the meeting at 4:05 pm. Quorum was met.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

*Council*

A motion to approve the October 13, 2021, agenda was made and seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

*Council*

A motion to approve the May 11, 2021, meeting minutes was made and seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

**3. Introductions**

*Council*

The council introduced themselves as there are new members since the previous meeting in May 2021.

**4. Athletic Council Chair's Report**

*Ryan Swanson*

Ryan asked that the council take a looking at charge of the council. Work has been Done to the charge in the past and what the council can do, how they function.

This council serves as a connection between main and south campus as well as in between different departments within UNM. How can they continue to improve and better serve student athletes?

Eddie Nunez was awarded the Mountain West Conference (MWC) Commissioner's Award which is only the third time in 21 years this award has been presented and the first time since 2007. This was awarded for achieving a singularly distinguished accomplishment during the academic year that significantly enhanced the MWC and/or UNM. It is also important to

acknowledge the staff as well such as Janice and Ed for their contributions.

The council will begin making connections with their teams. Ryan will send out a form to ask the council about what teams they served as liaisons in the past and where to serve in the future.

The council will work on reviewing the feedback from the student athlete exit interviews.

Due to scheduling issues, the council will have one-hour meetings as a trial run to see if longer meetings are required.

## **5. Athletic Director's Report**

*Eddie Nunez*

Sports are picking up for the fall. Some are preparing for the season while others are in the middle of their season. Football and volleyball have started, and volleyball is doing great. Same with cross-country. Football is struggling a bit, but are trying to navigate the issues with covid and injuries.

For the past two years Athletics has been fortunate be able to even out with its funds because of turf money to make up for loss in revenue from ticket sales. The challenges will exist this year. Budgets have been doing okay for now, but still difficult situation with sponsors. They are not sure what costs will be due to covid.

UNM is trying to keep with its current conference, but they are working the conference realignment to see what is out there. Where can we be as a conference? This is an opportunity to be a power five school. There are great things financially, but it takes large strides to get there financially.

The Hall of Honor is taking place this week at the Sandia Event Center. The Cherry and Silver Gala is taking place on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Money raised goes to student athletes in scholarships, mental health and nutrition. This has become the premier event in the city.

A council member reported issues with concession. Eddie stated contractors do not have enough staff. Athletics has been working with food trucks to assist. UNM has partnered with Chic-fil-a. There were issues with the state game and the digital tickets. Eddie said Athletics did a training session for staff to figure it out as this process was new. There were some errors on their part and getting fans to understand how the tickets work. The most recent game was more efficient.

A question was asked about coach selections and graduating students, winning games, etc. How are they brought into the lobo expectation? Eddie stated the focus is on the topic of local culture and understanding it. How can they work with what they have to provide the best atmosphere for student athletes? As long as they are here, coaches are advised to immerse themselves in campus community and local community.

## **6. Faculty Athletic Representative Report**

*Karen Gaudreault*

The council will hear from Karen in the future. She was unable to make it to meeting today.

**7. Director of Lobo Center for Student-Athlete Success Report**

*Eric Schultz*

For Spring 2021, student athletes had an overall 3.36 GPA as compared to the general GPA of 3.35. Men's sports were 3.12 GPA and women's was 3.59 GPA. Women tied second highest in the school's history. This is the 22<sup>nd</sup> straight semester of women storing higher than 3.4 GPA. Men's Golf was a 3.74 GPA, the highest in any men's program, and Women's 4.02 GPA. This is the third semester of Women's Golf having the top GPA in the country.

A council member asked what the policy is for online classes. Eric stated the limit are two online courses per student per semester. This changed with the pandemic, however, since in-person classes have been offered, they are back to the original policy.

A council member asked, where are we with students who lost that year due to the pandemic? When is Athletics starting with new class of freshman? Eric said they have progressed as normal. Student athletes will address that lost year at the end of their academic and athletic career. Recruiting cannot stop and must go on. If they decide to go on for one more year, they must be enrolled in classes. They can obtain a graduate degree or get a second bachelor's degree.

**8. Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Report**

*Eliza Rice*

SAAC has had two meetings. They are having a canned food drive. For home games, people can make donations at the ticket station.

They are having larger conversation about student athlete mental health. They are promoting campus resources on social media. They have written a letter to MWC to roll out the policy for days off from practice for mental health days, no questions asked. What number of days is appropriate or is it appropriate at all? This letter will go to the Athletic Council before it is submitted to the MWC.

They are trying to promote building relationships with other students and athletes. Points are given for photos posted on social media. Points are accumulated to get free food and shirts.

They would like to bring back the UNM Emmy's.

**9. ASUNM Report**

*Diego Pena Parr*

ASUNM is back in the office. They are planning events for the year. This month the focus is on the Lobo Food Pantry. They are also partnering with the Veteran's Resource Center. Homecoming events are coming up.

**10. Other Business:**

*Council*

A council member extended further congratulations to Eddie and his work with the budget, improving communication and transparency, etc. It was expressed this has made such a difference with the athletic department.

**11. Adjourn**

4:57 PM