

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
Athletic Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 12th, 2020
Administration Conference Room
South Athletic Complex-Colleen J. Maloof Bldg.
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Minutes - Draft

Council Members: Jacqueline Hood, Ryan Swanson, Raj Mahto, Ann Gibson, Lindsay Smart, Gig Brummell, Mark Lasota, Gregory Romero, Ross Sinclair, Eddie Nunez, Janice Ruggiero, Sara Nottingham

Absent: Janet Poole, Karl Hinterbichler, Matthew Borrego, Todd Seidler, Monica Cyrino, Mike Rocca, Abigail Lutz

Athletic Dept. Staff: Chris Baca, Eric Schultz

SAAC President: Natasha Dark

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

1. Opening and Call to OrderRyan Swanson

Ryan opened the meeting at 2:31 pm.

- **Quorum was met.**

- **Approval of Agenda.....Ryan Swanson**
Agenda was approved unanimously.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes.....Ryan Swanson

- December 11th meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Athletic Chair’s Report.....Ryan Swanson

- Ryan welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year. He introduced himself and thanked everyone for working with him as interim chair while Mike Rocca was on sabbatical for the Spring semester.
- Ryan expressed his wish to keep the lines of communication open between council members, the athletics department, and the student athletes.
- His main goals for the semester are to keep the council’s momentum going, preparing for and executing the Exit Interviews, and finally compiling the data for the end of year report. He also intends on having team liaisons more involved with their teams and have liaison report at the meetings.
- Faculty Senate President Finnie Coleman will be on the agenda for the March meeting as well.

4. Athletic Director’s Report.....Eddie Nuñez

- Eddie shared that he was very proud of a former UNM student athlete, Kendall Spencer, who spoke at the Capital on the hot topic of student athletes’ Name, Image, and Likeness of student athletes. Eddie feels that it is important to open a dialogue about the positives and negatives of this topic and he wants to be able to make the best choices for all the student athletes.

- The Name, Image, and Likeness movement is about student athletes being able to market themselves as athletes to generate revenue for themselves by using the university as a platform to do so.
- Janice Ruggiero pointed out that it would be important to educate students on the pros and cons of this. For example, they will have to pay licensing fees, pay taxes, and could potentially lose funding for school depending on how this matter turns out.
- With the legislative session in full swing, Eddie spoke about how he has been at the courthouse advocating for athletics and the University as a whole, especially pushing for funding for mental health. He said that he was so proud of four of his student athletes who went to speak at a hearing and did such an amazing job that their presentation was discussed throughout the whole day. He could not be prouder of how they conducted themselves.
- The new football coach is an exciting addition to the department. Eddie feels that the coach has a great deal of integrity and has the department, and the students, at the center of his attention.
- Eddie spoke on the topic of the student athletes having a safe outlet to socialize. He would like to start exploring avenues to getting UNM sponsored social events together so that students are able to have the social experience in a safe environment.
- Ryan asked if Athletics was currently staffed to capacity and Eddie shared that they were close to fully staffed, missing only one person to fill a marketing position.
- When it comes to the budget, Eddie said that they had hit most of their revenue members, but he feels that he needs to continue working on new ways to help create even more revenue for the department.

5. SAAC Report.....Natasha Dark

- Natasha reported that the SAAC had their second meeting of the year the night before the Athletic Council meeting and she felt things were going well. At the meeting, they did discuss how they were going to utilize the student fees and what that may look like going forward.
- She was excited to share that SAAC has a new coordinator, Heidi Nordstrom, who is an incredible individual who has already done so much for SAAC. Heidi will be the main line of contact between student athletes and administration.

6. FAR Report/Introduction.....Sara Nottingham

- Sara introduced herself and shared that because of her background in athletics as well as administration, she felt that she could be of value as the FAR representative.
- She shared that she does not have much to report on FAR matters yet as she has been doing most of the onboarding certification, but she looks forward to the upcoming conferences and hopes to have more to share with the council at the next meeting.

7. Student-Athlete Success Report.....Chris Baca

- In the Lobo Center for Student-Athletes, Chris was happy to report that they were fully staffed, which has helped the success of the program. They have a new football advisor who has been of great value and they are so excited to have her.
- Chris was excited to share the GPA's from the Fall 2019 semester of the student athletes as they had only continued to improve.
 - The athletics department had an overall record-breaking GPA of a 3.37.
 - The men's sports had an overall GPA of 3.18 and women's sports with an overall GPA of 3.59. 297 students who earned a 3.0 or better.
 - Football had a record-breaking GPA of a 2.98.
 - Men's tennis had a record-breaking GPA of a 3.92.
 - Women's golf with a record-breaking 3.91
 - Women's tennis with a record-breaking 3.98
- Recently, the Lobo Center for Student-Athletes had switched their Study Hall structure, to a more objective based system for the students. Chris feels that this change had a direct influence on the improvements in the GPAs of the student athletes.
- Chris also feels that the environment of the study hall over all has improved greatly, causing the students to come to hang out willingly and that has really improved the over all culture.
- There was a concern brought up by Chris that there was a student with a documented medical injury who had to miss an exam and when they got with the professor to make up the exam, the professor refused to accommodate the student.
 - It was suggested by the council that the student, and the athletic admin, go to talk to the department chair. If that does not work, they should continue up the chain of command and talk to the dean as there are policies that do require the professor to accommodate the student when there is a documented medical issue.

8. Other Business:

- The amended athletic charge is making its way through the Faculty Senate to get finalized. However, section K is not clear in its purpose, and before the charge is able to get approved, the council will have to clarify the purpose of section K.
 - After some discussion, the council felt it was important that Mike Rocca be consulted on the intent of this section so that the council could make an educated decision.
- Ryan shared that Faculty Senate President Finnie Coleman was concerned about Exit Interviews' timeline and was hoping that the council would be able to complete the interviews at an earlier date so that if any action is need, then there would be time to act.
 - The council agreed to having the interviews occur earlier, in mid to late March.
 - Chris offered to help again with the scheduling so that the turn out for the exit interviews were as successful as the previous year.
- The liaison list for the athletic teams was finalized, and the teams without a liaison were filled by volunteers. Eric agreed to help fill in the contact

information for the liaisons to contact the coaches of their teams. Once the information is complete, the contact list will be circulated to the council.

- Ryan asked that all the liaisons meet with their teams before the March meeting so that they could report back to the council.

9. Proposed Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 11th, 2019

10. Adjourn

3:45 pm.