

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
Athletic Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 9, 2021
Zoom Conference
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Minutes – Final

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

Absent: Ross Sinclair, Janet Poole, Eddie Nunez

Athletic Dept. Staff: Chris Baca, Eric Schultz

SAAC President: Gwen Maly

Guests & Minutes: Felisha Martinez – University Secretary’s Office

- 1. Opening and Call to OrderMike Rocca**
Mike opened the meeting at 2:34 pm.
 - **Quorum was met.**

- 2. Approval of Agenda..... Mike Rocca**
Agenda was approved unanimously.

- 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes..... Mike Rocca**
 - December 8, 2020 meeting minutes – Approved Unanimously

- 4. Athletic Council Chair’s Report.....Mike Rocca**
 - The current focus is to get a handle on student athlete mental wellbeing. The subcommittee of Equity, Welfare and Sportsmanship is tasked with creating a set of resources to improve access. Where are we now, what do we need to change and how do we make those changes? HSC is doing well with assisting student athletes regarding mental health, but this committee is tasked with helping HSC in any way it can. Over the next 2-3 weeks the subcommittee will meet and brainstorm. They will present to the council and make recommendations.
 - Another focus is on the student athlete exit interview process. There is positive feedback around the use of Zoom for exit interviews. Numbers could improve from last year, since this is when the pandemic began. Zoom may allow more flexibility for students to participate. The interview is meant to be anonymous, but the committee does not remember any issues with students being hesitant to participate last year via Zoom. Suggestions were made to remind the students the exit interviews are not being recorded, there is an option to not share your video, and you can change your name in the display. This can all been shown in bullet points

for students to review prior to the interviews. The April meeting can be a review of questions that need to be changed from last year.

5. FAR Report.....Sara Nottingham

- FAR calls have included updates from the NCAA regarding decisions about COVID and current legislative actions. Breda Bova is handling UNM specific academic support as Sara is currently on parental leave.

6. Associate Athletic Director of Compliance Report.....Eric Schultz

- There were 10 transfer students from fall. Four students left UNM to attend other 4-year institutions and two students transferred to junior colleges. There were 5 students in total who were graduate students and were set to play their final year at another institution. The NCAA continues to update rules due to COVID. Current rules due to COVID are being reviewed to determine if they will be long term.
- There was a question from a committee member regarding compensation. The NCAA is working with the Department of Justice to review current proposals. On January 9th a notice of information was sent out, however this was put on hold for now. As a department, Athletics has been working through proposals and how it will affect UNM. There are 5-6 companies that UNM has spoken with to see how they can help the University. UNM is working on how to develop their education program, setting up limited liability, and manage revenue from social media (i.e., TikTok). They are also working with student athletes on how to build their personal brand, and what they can and cannot do with their likeness in relation to UNM trademarks. Once rules have passed, there will be a meeting to inform students of the changes. They will also work on disclosures and make sure students are compliant. If rules are broken, how does this affect student's ability to play, effect on the team to play? They will also focus on COVID and eligibility. Athletics is trying to figure this out since it has been put on universities to determine eligibility. Incoming students' eligibility won't be solidified until their final year. Determining eligibility will be a 4-5-year process.

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

- The Mountain West Player of the week is Gwen Maly. Women's soccer is currently undefeated. The overall student athlete GPA is 3.34. This is the top three GPA over the last three semesters. The women's teams have an overall 3.59 GPA while men's teams have 3.09 GPA. Baseball tied their program record with third straight top five GPA. Football has the third highest fall GPA. Soccer has 3.76 GPA, which is the fifth highest in program history. Volleyball has 3.67 GPA, which is the third highest in program history. Wyoming, UNM and Airforce are the only institutions that did not have "credit" or "no credit" grading systems. Others, recently including Hawaii, have had a regular grading system. This along with GPA is impressive for student athletes due to uncertainty of being able to play because of COVID.
- There were some questions regarding staff having backdoor access to Blackboard Learn. Progress reports have a 49% feedback rate. What needs to happen with the new learning management system is to ensure staff have

access? This helps with tracking student athlete academic progress. The initial transition to Canvas is supposed to be in Summer 2021 with a few courses, but a full transition in Fall 2022. Some professors do not use the progress reports while others do. Those who choose to, can opt out and do not have to grant access. There should only access to athlete students reports.

8. Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Report.....Gwen Maly

- Most of the teams are in season, but it is different than most spring semesters. They had to change their meeting dates change from Tuesday's and to Wednesday's due to conflicts in schedules. SAAC helped with Lobos Gift Day two weeks ago. This was a 24-hour fundraiser which student athletes helped to promote. Another focus for this group is to promote wellness in student athletes and the community in general. They have "Mental Health Monday" to discuss mental health and "Workout Wednesday" in which students post their workouts on social media. The following the Instagram link was provided: https://www.instagram.com/unm_saac/. Playing sports had helped with student athlete mental health. Classes are going well and professors are understanding of student schedules.

9. Athletic Director's Report.....Janice Ruggiero (On behalf of Eddie Nunez)

- Athletics is waiting on legislation. Budgets are restricted with a \$12.5 million deficit. Nothing is concrete right now. Eddie is involved in the search for a new men's basketball coach. He was involved in basketball as a coach and player and so he is well connected around the country. He has said finding a coach is about having a good fit with academics, students, etc. It is not just about wins and losses.

10. Other Business:

- **ASUNM Report**
No new reports to be made related to athletics. ASUNM is trying to put on events virtually such as fiestas for April. They are hoping they will get student athletes to attend. They usually partner with them for Lobo Day and Homecoming. The hope is they can have in person events this year. There are President and Vice President elections going on right now.
- **Liaison Reports**
Ann for Volleyball: There has been contact via the coach. She has been invited to go to practice next week. There can only be so many in attendance at one time due to COVID restrictions.
Gig for Basketball: They have only spent two games in Albuquerque, otherwise they are travelling. Hopefully they will have more contact soon. They anticipate women's basketball will be in the NCAA tournament.
Ryan for Cross Country: Things are going well as they just won their 13th consecutive companionship. They have embraced a flexible schedule and students training on their own. Online classes have been a blessing for their busy schedules.
Mike for Tennis: There is a plan to meet with them after practice as soon as next week. Coaches are struggling with the balance of guidance to students and doing their job. It was a concern of having the confidence to have the

answers and properly guide students. What can the council do to provide support to everyone including staff, coaches, and students? Janice said coaches have mental health training to help with such concerns. HSC has been helpful and do this every year. There are presentations to students as well. Mike said it is good to make sure liaisons communicate this to their coaches.

- **Subcommittee Reports-** No updates currently.
 - **Academic Integrity**
 - **Governance, Compliance & Fiscal Integrity Committee**
 - **Equity, Welfare and Sportsmanship**
- **Future Business:**
 - **TBD**

11. Adjourn

3:26 PM