

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
Athletic Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 11, 2021
Zoom Conference
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Minutes – Final

Council Members: Ryan Swanson, John Benavidez, Matthew Borrego, Todd Seidler, Ann Gibson, Lindsay Smart, Michael Rocca, Gig Brummell, Jeongwon Choi, Emma Spotts, Janice Ruggiero, Gregory Romero, Tamala Bos, Sara Nottingham, Janet Poole, Eddie Nunez, Eric Schultz, Ross Sinclair

Absent: Monica Cyrino, Brandi Fink, Karl Hinterbichler

Athletic Dept. Staff: Chris Baca

SAAC President: Gwen Maly

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

- 1. Opening and Call to OrderMike Rocca**
 - Mike opened the meeting at 2:40 pm.
 - **Quorum was met.**

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

- 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes..... Mike Rocca**
 - April 13, 2021, meeting minutes – Approved unanimously.

- 4. Athletic Council Chair’s Report.....Mike Rocca**
 - Student Athlete exit interviews were conducted at the end of April 2021. There were 15 athletes in attendance over three interview periods and five separate sports were represented. The previous year there were 15 student athletes in attendance. The Council would like stronger participation in the future if possible. The Zoom format did perform well. Perhaps Zoom can be used in the future to increase student athlete attendance. There was mostly positive feedback regarding interviews being conducted via Zoom. There was some constructive information that will go into the report. This report will go to Eddie Nunez, Faculty Senate President Dr. Finnie Coleman and University President Garnett Stokes. Mike is currently working on creating the report. It was suggested that the Council work on recruiting from basketball, baseball, and football as attendance from those groups have been low. The online survey tool will also be explored for use in the fall. Chris stated it could be helpful to host exit interviews in fall as well since many students leave the University after the fall semester. It was suggested that an abbreviated process could be used to make this possible. Gig suggested having team captains advertise the exit interviews. Mike also suggested SAAC advertise as well.

- The Council roster is complete. Dr. Coleman would like to begin a stagger of three terms that include four members rotate off the Council in 2022, four in 2023, and four in 2024. Currently there are five members that rotate off in 2022. The Council needs one person to volunteer to move to a 2023 end of term. John volunteered to extend his term by one year. Ann is stepping down from the Council this year. This also happens to be the end of her term. Mike will work with Dr. Coleman to fill that vacancy. He will work offline on other upcoming vacancies and if those individuals want to stay on the Council. The chair position will be vacant as Mike will step down; however, he will stay on the Council as a member. An election of the new chair will be held once the 2021-2022 roster is filled. An email will go out from the Office of the University Secretary regarding the election of a new chair.
- Mike is working on the end of the year report that goes to the Faculty Senate. He asked what the Council would like to address for year 2021-2022. The group stated they would like to increase the number of exit interview attendees and the number of teams represented. The student absent policy was also suggested as a goal to address. The Council would like to review the payment of athletes through name, image, and likeness. Eddie stated Athletics is still working on the preliminary stages of this and will present to the Council in the future. It was suggested that the relationship between liaisons and coaches be addressed. Chris stated that administrators continue with observer access as the learning platform changes. This platform is used to view student grades. It was suggested that anti-racism and social justice be a focus for the Council as it impacts student athlete wellness. Mike stated that the relationship between the Council, staff and faculty is an important one. With a strong, working relationship it leads to better work that positively impacts the students.

5. Athletic Director’s Report..... Eddie Nunez

- Students are finishing with their finals. The women’s golf team is in their second round of the NCAA tournament. The men’s golf team will start their tournament soon. Softball and baseball are in their regular season. Students are exceling as there are a total of 6 championship wins. Track is going on with their season and may win UNM another championship.
- Athletics will be preparing for the next year over the summer. The transfer portal is changing. This affects how people recruit and how teams are developed. Basketball has had some changes but are doing well with what they have. Students and coaches have been understanding.
- A former football student recently donated \$350K to the weight room and the football program. He is challenging his teammates to match his gift. This could provide additional funding to Athletics. High school meets have helped a bit with revenue.
- Athletics is making progress in communication and strengthening relationships.
- Athletics is still searching for a new baseball coach.

6. Faculty Athletic Representative Report.....Sara Nottingham

- Mountain West FAR’s will meet on May 12, 2021. Sara will finish up as FAR this summer. She did let the appropriate individuals know and they

are looking for a replacement. The President's Office will manage the selection process.

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

- Not present for report.

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

- Athletics is between registration and saying goodbye to students that are graduating. Chris congratulated the student members and her appreciation of them to represent student athletes. The stole ceremony is taking place the evening of May 11, 2021. There are 96 graduates from the last year. Athletics did not have a ceremony for fall. This ceremony will include summer, fall, and spring. There are 47 undergraduates and 6 masters that are leaving the University. GPA certified results will be in shortly.

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

- The new President has been elected. Their secretary will be returning and there are two new representatives. SAAC reps have organized an apparel drive donating to Native communities in New Mexico. A Council member asked about SAAC doing local givebacks (i.e., visiting local schools). Gwen said in the past they have visited the Children's Hospital and had a toiletry drive for the homeless community. Due to COVID, they were unable to do any givebacks in the last year, however, will do so in the future.

10. Student Exit Interview Process.....Committee

- Student exit interview process was covered in the Council chair report.

11. Other Business:

- **ASUNM Report-** May 14th is the installation of new student leadership. Gregory may not attend Council meetings in the future, but someone from ASUNM will.
- **Liaison Reports**
No reports.
- **Subcommittee Reports**
No reports.
 - **Academic Integrity**
 - **Governance, Compliance & Fiscal Integrity Committee**
 - **Equity, Welfare and Sportsmanship**
- **Future Business:**
 - All future business was covered in the Council chair report.

12. Adjourn

3:30 PM