

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
Athletic Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 8th, 2020
Zoom Conference
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Minutes - Final

Council Members: Ryan Swanson, Brandi Fink, John Benavidez, Janet Poole, Karl Hinterbichler, Matthew Borrego, Todd Seidler, Ann Gibson, Lindsay Smart, Michael Rocca, Monica Cyrino, Gig Brummell, Jeongwon Choi, Emma Spotts, Ross Sinclair, Eddie Nunez, Janice Ruggiero

Absent: Gregory Romero, Tamala Bos, Sara Nottingham

Athletic Dept. Staff: Chris Baca, Eric Schultz

SAAC President: Gwen Maly

Guests & Minutes: Dr. Deborah Altschul, Nancy Middlebrook – University Secretary, Mary Dorado – University Secretary’s Office

1. **Opening and Call to Order****Mike Rocca**
 - Mike opened the meeting at 2:36 pm.
 - **Quorum was met.**
 - **Approval of Agenda**..... **Mike Rocca**
 - Agenda was approved unanimously.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**..... **Mike Rocca**
 - November 10th, 2020 meeting minutes – Approved Unanimously
3. **Athletic Chair Report**..... **Mike Rocca**
 - Mike welcomed Nancy Middlebrook to the Council. Nancy is the new University Secretary and she was excited to come meet the Council members.
4. **Athletic Director’s Report**..... **Eddie Nuñez**
 - Eddie is in Las Vegas with the football team and will stay with the team through their game on Saturday. He was especially proud of the team for making time to study and work on finals, even while away from home.
 - The health orders are still causing difficulties in finding ways for the student athletes to still get in practices and be able to compete. These questions translate into the Spring semester as well.
 - Because of the inability of having fans in the stands at the games has a devastatingly negative impact on finances. There is a very good possibility that Athletics will end up in the red in double digits. While the Athletics Department is trying to mitigate costs, the majority of their funds are now only going to salaries and scholarships.
 - The available positions in Athletics are up on UNMJobs.

5. Mental Wellness Update.....Dr. Deborah Altschul

- Dr. Altschul was asked to join the Athletic Council today to discuss the state of Mental Wellbeing of the student athletes.
- Dr. Altschul shared her presentation with the committee which provided some background information on mental wellness statistics and its prevalence in college athletic students.
- In addition to this, she provided some information on the type of contributing factors to mental wellness. Among these could be family history, time of year, life transitions, history of trauma, and more.
- COVID has also contributed to difficulties in mental wellness. It not only created a feeling of seclusion, but it also caused students who have prepared to be athletes in college to finally get there, then not be able to play. In addition to this, there is a great deal of stress in worrying about their own health and the health of their loved ones.
- In addition to causes and statistics, Dr. Altschul also shared the services that she and her team provide to students. This included the intake process, the referral process, the crisis intervention process, and more.

6. Compliance Report.....Eric Schultz

- Eric had nothing substantial to report.

7. LCSAS.....Chris Baca

- Chris did not have much to report. She just appreciated the support from the faculty to facilitate successful finals.

8. SAAC Report.....Gwen Maly

- Gwen did not have much to report, however she did feel it would be very helpful to share the Mental Wellness information with the athletic teams, especially in how to cope with mental health issues.

9. Other Business:

- No new business.

10. Adjourn

3:53 pm.