

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
Athletic Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 13, 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, Lindsay Smart, Michael Rocca, Gig Brummell, Jeongwon Choi, Emma Spotts, Janice Ruggiero, Gregory Romero, Tamala Bos, Sara Nottingham, Janet Poole, Eddie Nunez

Absent: Ross Sinclair, Monica Cyrino, Eric Schultz, Ann Gibson

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 2:34 pm.
 - **Quorum was met.**

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

- 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes..... Mike Rocca**
 - March 9, 2021 meeting minutes – Approved unanimously, with minor amendment to liaison report.

- 4. Athletic Council Chair’s Report.....Mike Rocca**
 - Mike has been meeting with Chris Baca regarding academics and student athlete mental illness. He would also like to catch up with Janice Ruggiero. There is one more Athletic Council meeting in May and he work with the council to prepare a report to the Faculty Senate President with final council recommendations.

- 5. Athletic Director’s Report..... Eddie Nunez**
 - Eddie expressed thanks to staff, students, council members, and others as the last year has been difficult. Academics had been great during the fall, with the last 3 semesters being record setting semesters.
 - Richard Pitino has been hired as the new men’s basketball coach.
 - With the recent legislative session, Athletics obtained financial systems in RPSP’s. Prior to COVID, Athletics experienced a \$500K loss and an additional \$400K post COVID. The Olympic training center was vetoed. They needed \$500K needed to make it happen. There was no reason provided for the denial. New Mexico Mutual provided a private gift which needs to be used within the year. Money was lost with baseball. The

budget for this year is better since they made up their losses by reducing expenditures. There were fewer games scheduled across the board.

- The diversity inclusion group is being active right now. A council member had a question regarding funding for athletes outside of scholarships. The use of NIL (name, image and likeness) is meant to generate revenue for students. It does not include the university paying athletes. Some things could be an issue with managing the NIL. UNM is working with the Governor's office to work out those issues. New Mexico will be one of three states that will have the NIL go into effect July 1st.

6. FAR Report.....Sara Nottingham

- Meetings are occurring once a month. There are not many action items as legislative proposals are on hold. They are discussing the D1 council and changes due to COVID. They are learning what others are doing in the conference such as structure of athletic councils, exit interviews, athletic equality index, which is a way of scoring friendly LGBTQ policies. A lot are using Real Recruit, which is a quantitative survey that is anonymous. They do interviews like UNM does, but they also do some one-on-one interviews where students can select who they interview with (not including coaches). They also have broad 5 question interviews and generate follow up questions from those 5 specific questions.

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

- Not present.

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

- Registration week is under way and advisors are working with student athletes. They are allowed priority registration due to their practice schedules.
- They are preparing for incoming student athletes. The NCAA did grant COVID years to student athletes. This is not a guarantee and students must work with coaches, who then will decide who is being granted an extra year. The First Year Experience course is provided for athletes to learn the NCAA rules and regulations. There is one class in summer and three in fall.
- Mike asked if students will be choosing more in-person or online courses. Chris stated Athletics would like them engaging on campus. They are limiting them to two online classes each semester unless there is a major conflict in their schedule. They must appeal and explain their need for the online class outside of the two online course limits. There is not a lot of push back from students on this limitation. It will be suggested that more office hours be offered online for student convenience.

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

- No report.

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

- The council has identified times for the student exit interviews as follows:
April 27th at 7 PM
April 29th at 2 PM
April 28th at 4 PM

A Doodle poll was sent out regarding interviews times. The council was encouraged to respond ASAP to give proper notice. The group then discussed finalizing questions. A council member suggested having COVID related questions to allow students to express their concerns, frustrations, or positive changes that benefited them. It was also suggested to have a few questions removed or combined as they seem repetitive. The questions were also ranked in order of importance in the event the interviewers ran out of time.

A council member asked what is done with the information once it is received. Mike stated, in the past, the exit interview information was received and compiled by the council chair, a redacted form is submitted to the Vice President for Athletics and the Faculty Senate President. The council's first meeting in fall is meant to revisit conclusions. There used to be a qualitative questionnaire provided in person followed by a quantitative survey with the library. This process has since dissolved and for the last 5-6 years the process has stayed the same. In the 2 years, the interview process became a IPRA issue which is why the process became so general and could not be tracked over time.

11. Other Business:

- **ASUNM Report-** ASUNM is working on their regularly scheduled events. They are working with the SFRB and revamp the process to make it run smoother. As of May 14th, the new student administration will be taking over. ASUNM will work with the Dean of Student's and Athletics for student participation in athletic events come fall.
- **Liaison Reports**
No reports
- **Subcommittee Reports**
No reports.
 - **Academic Integrity**
 - **Governance, Compliance & Fiscal Integrity Committee**
 - **Equity, Welfare and Sportsmanship**
- **Future Business:**
 - **TBD**

12. Adjourn

3:41 PM