

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
Athletic Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 13th, 2020
Zoom Conference
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Minutes

Council Members: Jacqueline Hood, Ryan Swanson, Todd Seidler, Ann Gibson, Gig Brummell, Mark Lasota, Ross Sinclair, Sara Nottingham, Eddie Nunez, Matthew Borrego, Raj Mahto, Janice Ruggiero, Janet Poole, Karl Hinterbichler, Lindsay Smart

Absent: Monica Cyrino, Michael Rocca, Abigail Lutz, Gregory Romero

Athletic Dept. Staff: Chris Baca

SAAC President: Natasha Dark

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

- 1. Opening and Call to OrderRyan Swanson**

Ryan opened the meeting at 2:30 pm.

 - **Quorum was met.**
 - **Approval of Agenda.....Ryan Swanson**

Agenda was approved unanimously.
- 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes.....Ryan Swanson**
 - April 8th, 2020 meeting minutes were not voted on as the Council chose to wait to vote till the next meeting.
- 3. Athletic Chair Report.....Ryan Swanson**
 - Ryan thanked the Council for making time to meet during finals week and for supporting him during his time as interim chair. He also thanked the committee for their participation throughout the year and expressed that it was only because of the Council members’ dedication that they could accomplish so much.
 - Ryan gave special thanks to Ross, Natasha, Gregory, and Abigail for dedicating themselves to the Council’s mission and acting as ambassadors for their fellow students. It is because of their input that the Council is able to understand how to better help the University’s student athletes.
 - Finally, Ryan thanked the Athletic administration and Sara Nottingham for making the effort to come to all the athletic meetings to help the Council gain a better understanding of the successes in athletics, and the areas in which the Council can better provide support.
- 4. FAR Report/Introduction.....Sara Nottingham**
 - Sara shared that the Mountain FARs met to discuss what other universities are doing to handle the pandemic. They are trying to focus on learning the best way forward and how to best support their athletes at this time.

- In addition to this, they discussed how they were working with compliance to adapt how the annual coaches' exam will be administered. Many are planning on doing it virtually over video conferencing such as Zoom.
- Ryan asked if there was any news on the overall acceptance of the credit, no credit, grading option that was given to students in light of COVID-19. Sara shared that many institutions were actually discouraging their students from choosing this grading option as there is a great deal of uncertainty around whether or not those will be accepted at other universities or as an acceptable grade for APR.

5. LCSAS.....Chris Baca

- APR numbers will not be officially released till the end of May, but Christ said Men and Women's golf are both at 1000 for the 18-19 academic year and for the multi-year. That is the fifth year for Men's golf and the seventh year for Women's Golf. Men's basketball is also at a 1000 for the 18-19 academic year and their multi-year is at a 990. GSR scores should be reported June 1st.
- Scholar Athlete did not hold their banquet due to the restrictions. However, Chris and her team are trying to find a way to celebrate their Scholar Athletes.
- Fifty-five of the student athletes have a 4.0 or better, which is an incredibly exciting number and one that is trending positively.
- The Athletics graduation will be held over Facebook Live at the end of May. Natasha will be the guest speaker and the alumni speaker is going to be coming to speak as well, which is exciting because the alumni speaker is also a front line worker at UNMH.

6. SAAC Report.....Natasha Dark

- Natasha thanked everyone for their support and she shared that her Lobo Experience has been incredible, all due to the support received.
- She shared that the SAAC is trying to continue on working to stay connected to one another by having virtual meet ups and other ways just to keep the doors of communication open.
- While Natasha is graduating, she was excited to announce that she will be the volunteer assistant coach for the swim and dive team while she waits to apply to UNM's Med program.
- Ross is very excited that he gets to have one more year with Lobo athletics and continuing his involvement in SAAC. He thanked everyone for providing this opportunity and he hopes to continue Natasha's legacy in the next academic year.

7. Athletic Director's Report.....Eddie Nuñez

- Eddie thanked the Council members for attending the last meeting of the Academic Year, especially since the meeting was taking place during finals week.
- Eddie thanked Natasha, Ross, Gregory, and Abigail for their dedication. He could not ask for better representatives and advocates to the Athletic Council.
- Unfortunately, because of COVID-19, the Athletics budget is not where they would like it to be. In addition to this, the NCAA retracted funding that was promised for in person events, putting the whole Athletic budget into a 3 million dollar deficit by the end of the year. Eddie hopes to find ways to improve these numbers, however there are limited opportunities due to the pandemic.
- The Athletics Department administration are all working on ways to safely bring staff back and students back. However, there is still so much unknown that he does not have exact dates of when they will be able to return back to campus.

8. Other Business:

- No new business was introduced.

9. Adjourn

3:03 pm.