

BOARD OF REGENTS
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

SECTION: 10

DATE:

April 21, 2009

RECOMMENDATION

ATHLETIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

ACTION REQUESTED

Working agenda for April 21, 2009 and the February 24, 2009 minutes to be received and placed on file.

STAFF SUMMARY

The minutes for the February 24, 2009 meeting included the latest update on the MAC.

This year's Hall of Fame was a great success thanks to the hard work of Craig Fink and his assistant Jessica Nietrzeba.

Melody Reifel Werner and Stephannnie Harvey-Vandenberg led a subcommittee on Title IX Initiatives.

Doug Dowdy updated everyone on the renovations taking place over at Bowen Field House.

The grade reports released for 2008 show our student-athletes have improved, posting a 3.028 cumulative GPA for the entire program.

Thanks go out to Erin Burdis and Ann Pierson for all their hard work on overseeing out student-athlete academic support.

Head Swimming Coach, Pete Linn picked up his seventh Coach of the Year honor.

The agenda for the April 21, 2009 meeting will include:

- Approval of February 24, 2009 Minutes
- Football Scheduling/Game Guarantees
- Athletic Program update
- Mid-American Conference Update
- Good News from Athletics

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

To be determined

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and is recommended for Board approval.

March 25, 2009

**BOARD OF REGENTS
ATHLETIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, April 21, 2009
Welch Hall**

A G E N D A

- A. Approval of February 24, 2009 Minutes
- B. Football Scheduling/Game Guarantees
- C. Athletic Program Update
- D. Mid-American Conference Update
- E. Good News from Athletics

**Eastern Michigan University
Board of Regents
ATHLETIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Minutes of February 24, 2009**

MEMBERS:

Regents: Regent Floyd Clack, Regent James Stapleton, Regent Roy Wilbanks, Phillip Incarnati and Gary Hawks

Athletics: Derrick Gragg, Director of Athletics

Regent Floyd Clack called the Athletic Affairs Committee to order at 1:00p.m.

Approval of the November 18, 2008 Minutes, Moved by Regent Hawks, Second by Regent Incarnati. Motion carried.

MAC Updates

- Director, Derrick Gragg informed everyone that Rick Chryst, Commissioner of the MAC for the past ten years announced that he is leaving the position in June of this year. I want to publicly thank Commissioner Chryst for his service during my three year tenure here as Director of Athletics. Under his leadership since 1999, the following highlights are significant:
 1. Thirty-eight (38) non-conference wins over schools from BCS automatic-qualifying conferences, and seven wins over nationally-ranked teams (only 15 total in MAC history). The four victories over Big Ten teams in 2008 were an all-time high for the conference;
 2. Forty-seven (47) home football games versus twenty-six different schools from BCS automatic-qualifying conferences, more than four times the number that occurred in the previous decade;
 3. A total of 27 bowl appearances in the last decade, nearly equaling the all-time number of 33 bowls in which the MAC had participated in the prior 52 years (1947-1998). Eleven (11) different MAC schools have played in a bowl within the last five years;
 4. Seventy-two (72) NFL draft picks in the past 10 years, more than were selected from the MAC in the previous 20 years, including 14 selected in either the first or second round; and,
 5. MAC football programs continuing to lead the nation in graduation rates for public institutions, as the MAC is the only one of the eleven Football Bowl Subdivision conferences to have more than half of its schools graduating football student-athletes at a rate of 70% or better.
- The MAC recently announced a new television partnership with ESPN.

Fundraising Updates and Initiatives

- Athletic Director, Derrick Gragg thanked **Craig Fink** and his assistant **Jessica Nietrzeba** for all their hard work on the Hall of Fame this year. Mr. Fink reminded everyone that the past two years were the best years of fundraising we have ever had. We are a little behind this year but remember we make up a lot during the last four months. (See insert)

Regent Clack: Any questions or concerns? Regent Wilbanks asked Mr. Fink if the difference was due to several small donors or a few larger ones. It was a few larger ones, he replied.

Proposed Title IX Initiatives

- Subcommittee led by **Dr. Melody Reifel-Werner** and **Stephannnie Harvey-Vandenberg** is being convened. Certification; the group's charge is to:
- Review the Athletics Department five year (2003- 2008) Gender Equity plan that was implemented in 2003. During this review, the committee will accomplish the following:
 - Provide evidence that objectives of the five-year plan were implemented successfully;
 - If necessary, provide a written explanation on the reason an objective was not implemented or achieved successfully.
- Assist in the creation of a new five-year Gender Equity plan. This plan will be implemented during the remainder of 2009-10 and carry the department through the 2014-2015 academic year. In creating this plan, the committee will review the following documents:
 - The results of a Title IX review conducted by consultant Lamar Daniel in 2006;
 - The department's gender equity strategic plan, which was created in 2008.
 - The NCAA's gender equity operating principles for 3rd-cycle athletics certification.

Athletic Facility Projects

- Director, Derrick Gragg introduces the Associate Director for our facilities **Doug Dowdy**. Doug stated that one year ago renovation plans began for the softball locker room in Bowen Field House and the outside softball field. These consist of 20 X 20 cedar block rooms turned into locker space from existing laboratories. Tear down began and we are redoing the floors, ceiling, insulation of the walls etc. Twenty five lockers total and they will have heat. We took from three element designs on campus – Halle Library, Rec/Im and the new Student Center to revamp the windows etc. of Bowen Field House. We have \$90,000 from a funding source to work on lockers for men's wrestling long term.

Regent Clack: Any questions or concerns? (None raised)

Good News from Athletics

- Academic success of student-athletes

The grade reports have been released for the 2008 fall semester and Eastern Michigan University's student-athletes have improved on last year's results, posting a 3.028 cumulative GPA for the entire department. The 2007 fall semester cumulative result was a 3.012. There are 500 student-athletes and 255 (51%) of them earned at least a 3.0 GPA during the fall semester. A total of 13 teams (68.4 percent) improved their fall GPA's and cumulative GPA's from Fall 2007 to Fall 2008 and 12 teams posted a 3.0 or better GPA in Fall 2008. In addition, 24 student-athletes recorded 4.0 semester GPA's in Fall 2008.

- I want to commend **Erin Burdis, Ann Pierson** for all their hard work. As I often say, overseeing student-athlete academic support area is an often thankless, laborious job, but a critical and necessary one. So I thank them for the countless hours they spend with our student-athletes.
- The Eastern Michigan University men's swimming and diving team captured its 3rd consecutive MAC championship this past week and its 28th overall. The win also marked the ninth title in the past ten years for the Eagles. Senior **Derick Roe** was selected the Swimmer of the Year for the second consecutive season, while head coach **Peter Linn** picked up his seventh Coach of the Year honor. For head coach Peter Linn, it marked the 18th title in his tenure. Peter also led his team to its 11th straight perfect undefeated regular season. The program has won 53 straight dual meets over the past 11 years. It is also to be noted that Peter's team accomplished all of this during a very difficult year that included the death of a female swimming student-athlete and the passing of his own father.
- The MAC indoor track championships will be held this weekend at Kent State. Our men's team is the reigning champion and is expected to repeat their success.
- Hosting MAC wrestling championships March 6-7 and also hosting a wrestling alumni event.
- The Convocation Center is going to be a site for practices for the men's Final Four teams in April. We anticipate serving as a host institution for future NCAA Regional men's basketball tournament games, despite the fact that Detroit was not awarded a future Final Four this year.
- Softball team is currently 3-1 and the Baseball team 2-2.

One Important Announcement:

The Department of Athletics along with the Swimming student-athletes will hold a memorial service for former EMU student-athlete Catherine Lee Ha who passed away in November. The service will take place on March 5, beginning at 7 pm at the Natatorium.

Catherine, a two-time All-Mid-American Conference second-team selection, was instrumental in helping the Eagles capture consecutive MAC Championship titles in 2005-06 and 2006-07. Over the course of her three-year career, she was a member of four relay teams that captured MAC titles. At the 2007-08 MAC Championship, she helped the 200 freestyle relay team set pool and MAC records, helping EMU to a third place finish. She was an exercise science major at Eastern Michigan.

Catherine was also honored at the NCAA Convention in Washington D.C. this past January as her name was read at the opening session along with other student-athletes, coaches and athletic administrators who passed away this past year.

I want to thank Mr. Bob England for rearranging some things at the Natatorium that day to accommodate the athletic department.

Cat, as we called her, was the epitome of what EMU and EMU athletics is all about.

Athletic Affairs Committee adjourned by Regent Clack at 1:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Hansen
Administrative Secretary
Intercollegiate Athletics

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Minutes, February 24, 2009.doc