

**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

SECTION: 18

DATE:

June 23, 2009

**RECOMMENDATION**

**ATHLETIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Working agenda for June 23, 2009 and the April 21, 2009 minutes to be received and placed on file.

**STAFF SUMMARY**

- The minutes for the April 21, 2009 meeting included the latest update on the MAC.
- Director of Athletics, Derrick Gragg discussed football scheduling philosophy and the need to balance guarantee games versus BCS institution versus putting our student-athletes at a competitive disadvantage.
- A present on the history of the athletic program was presented for the most recent 10years.
- The Director of Athletics discussed the Improvement Plans for the various sport programs.

The agenda for the June 23, 2009 meeting will include:

- Approval of April 21, 2009 Minutes
- Financial Impact of Athletics to the University
- Preliminary 2009-20 Goals and Objectives
- Good News from Athletics

**Good News from Athletics**

- Scholar-Athlete banquet for 172 student-athletes
- Freshman, baseball player Wally Gerbus was named one of the college baseball's "Louisville Slugger" national players of the week after tying a MAC record
- EMU Pioneer Track Event hosted a two day alumni event. Attending the event included:

Past EMU track athlete and famed head coach Bob Parks, Hayes Jones, EMUS's first Olympic Gold Medal winner in 1964 and also won a Bronze medal in 1960, Red Simmons who ran track here during the early 1930's when EMU was known as Michigan Normal. Red is regarded as the "Father of Women's track" in Michigan becoming the University of Michigan's first track coach. Also EMU Hall of Famer and organizer of the event, Eugene Thomas; EMU Hall of Famer Rick Ross who is the Athletic Director at Lincoln High School, and recent EMU athletic hall of fame inductee Chuck Wilson were all in attendance.

- Junior Erin Grigg was named to the Academic All-MAC women's gymnastics team
- Senior Softball Heather Han was named MAC Female Scholar Athlete of the Week for the week ending April 12<sup>th</sup>.
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**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

To be determined

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

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

**BOARD OF REGENTS  
ATHLETIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, June 23, 2009  
Welch Hall**

**A G E N D A**

- A. Approval of Tuesday, April 21, 2009 Minutes
- B. Financial Impact of Athletics to the University
- C. Preliminary 2009-20 Goals and Objectives
- D. Good News from Athletics

DG/kah

Agenda June 23, 2009,.doc

**Eastern Michigan University  
Board of Regents  
ATHLETIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
Minutes of April 21, 2009**

**MEMBERS:**

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

**Athletics:** Derrick Gragg, Director of Athletics

Regent Phillip Incarnati called the Athletic Affairs Committee to order at 12:48p.m.

Request for approval of the February 24, 2009 Minutes. Moved and seconded, motion carried.

The Director of Athletics, Derrick Gragg thanked outgoing chair, Regent Clack for all his hard work chairing this committee, the Athletic Department is quite grateful.

The Director of Athletics then discussed football scheduling philosophy and the need to balance playing guarantee games versus BCS institutions versus putting our student-athletes at a competitive disadvantage. Regent Incarnati stated he would strongly encourage the two for one situation. Maryland, we need to take advantage of that.

There was a presentation on the history of the athletic program and the most recent 10 year history of the program collectively. Teams have captured 109 MAC Championships – 88 men’s, 21 women’s – since EMU joined the MAC in 1973 (an average of 3 per year). However, there is a heightened awareness of our need to improve the revenue-producing sports of football and men’s basketball. Director, Derrick Gragg thanked Liz Broughton for all her efforts to assist the Athletic Department.

The Director of Athletics proceeded to discuss the Improvement Plans for the various sport programs that are not currently placing within the top half of conference standings. Such plans will focus on:

\*A recap of the past season (e.g., injuries, strength of schedule, game preparation/motivation, and other components that affected the outcome of the season).

\*This year's offensive and defensive production/performance in comparison to other MAC teams.

\*Information about upcoming recruiting class and future classes.

\*The returning student-athletes (e.g. who is returning, contributors who are graduating, players who may be seeking to transfer, etc.)

\*The current staff, including the assistant coaches, strength and conditioning staff.

\*The immediate team goals for next season.

\*Your overall philosophies/goals for the overall success of based on recruiting, scheduling, etc.

\*Any other information you feel will be essential/important.

### MAC Updates

- We welcome new MAC Commissioner Dr. Jon Steinbrecher. I invited Dr. Steinbrecher to the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, but he cannot attend. However, he wants to get on all the MAC campuses as soon as possible. I will invite him to attend during the fall. We will meet him at the annual MAC meetings in Chicago in May.
- Congratulations to Dell Robinson, Associate Commissioner, who was recently named as the new GLIAC Commissioner.

### Good News from Athletics

- **Scholar-Athlete Banquet:** 172 student-athletes honored at the EMU Department of Athletics annual Scholar Athlete Award Banquet.

Top Scholar-Athletes from each team with the highest grade point averages were honored as well along with faculty members that they chose to attend the banquet.

We want to thank Erin Burdis and Ann Pierson and the SASS staff for their tireless work.

- **Freshman baseball player Wally Gerbus** was named one of college baseball's "Louisville Slugger" national players of the week after tying a MAC record by hitting 4 home runs versus Bowling Green in a 27-7 win over the Falcons. He also went 8-17 in a three game series versus league leading Ohio U. In addition to the national award, Wally was also named MAC West player of the week.

- **EMU Pioneer Track Event**

This past weekend, Eastern Michigan University athletic department celebrated the history of EMU track and field/cross country by hosting a two-day alumni event for the Pioneers of the EMU Track and Field and Cross Country programs. We recognized and celebrated the former athletes and teams prior to Eastern's entrance into the Mid-American Conference. Those who attended the event included:

Past EMU track athlete and famed head coach Bob Parks

Hayes Jones, EMU's first Olympic Gold Medal winner in 1964 and also won a Bronze medal in 1960, Red Simmons who ran track here during the early 1930's when EMU was known as Michigan Normal. Red is regarded as the "Father of Women's track" in Michigan becoming the University of Michigan's first track coach. Also EMU Hall of Famer and organizer of the event, Eugene Thomas; EMU Hall of Famer Rick Ross who is the Athletic Director at Lincoln High School, and recent EMU athletic hall of fame inductee Chuck Wilson were all in attendance.

- **Junior Erin Grigg** was named to the Academic All-MAC women's gymnastics team for the first time in her career. Erin carries a 3.97 gpa in exercise science. She was named as MAC Female Scholar Athlete of the Week twice during the season.

- Senior Softball student-athlete **Heather Han** was named MAC Female Scholar Athlete of the Week for the week ending April 12. The MAC Scholar Athlete of the Week honor is presented to a student-athlete who has a cumulative gpa of 3.0 or better and performs well during that week's competition. During that week, Heather hit .429 with four RBI and one home run in our softball program's first-ever regular season sweep of Central Michigan.
- The Softball locker room renovation project has been completed. I was at the softball field when the keys to the facility were turned over to head coach Karen Baird. The facility is outstanding and the student-athletes and coaches are very happy with the work. I want to personally thank Doug Dowdy, Erich Keil, Dave Jaworski and John Donegan from the Physical Plant
- Women's golf MAC tournament will be held this weekend. We have finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the MAC the past two years and have finished that high only one other time in the history of the program, thus, they are doing quite well.
- Men's swimming/diving student-athletes and head coach Peter Linn will be honored at today's regular Board meeting. The team captured its third consecutive MAC championship this past week. The win also marked the third consecutive title and the ninth in the past ten years for the Eagles. Head coach **Peter Linn** picked up his seventh Coach of the Year honor. The win marked the 18th title during Peter's tenure here as head coach.

Athletic Affairs Committee adjourned by Regent Incarnati at 1:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Hansen  
Administrative Secretary  
Intercollegiate Athletics

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Minutes, April 21, 2009.doc