

**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

SECTION: 4
DATE: April 18, 2024

**RECOMMENDATION**

**ATHLETIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**ACTION REQUESTED**

It is requested that the Board of Regents receive and place on file the working agenda for the April 18, 2024 meeting and December 7, 2023 minutes.

**STAFF SUMMARY**

- Eastern Athletics 101
- Sports Update
- Facilities Update-Clifford Sims
- Sahar Nusseibeh-New Head Women's Basketball Coach

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

To be determined

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
University Executive Officer

Date 4/1/24

**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**ATHLETIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**April 18, 2024**  
**201 Welch Hall**

**A G E N D A**

- A. Eastern Athletics 101
  - a. Vision
  - b. Mission
  - c. Defining Principles
  - d. Conference Affiliation
  - e. Department Portfolio
  - f. Classroom
  
- B. Sports Update
  - a. Winter Recap
  - b. Spring Update
  
- C. Facilities Update-Cliff Sims
  - a. Rynearson Stadium
  - b. New Track
  - c. Dome Completion
  - d. Miscellaneous Projects
  
- E. Sahar Nusseibeh-New Head Women's Basketball Coach

**Eastern Michigan University  
Board of Regents  
ATHLETIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
Minutes of December 7, 2023**

**Members:**

Regents: Anupam Chugh Sidhu, Alexander Simpson, Nathan K. Ford

Athletics: Scott Wetherbee, Athletics Director/Vice President

The Athletic Affairs Committee meeting was called to order at 9:32a.m.

**Fall/Winter Sports Update:**

Athletic Affairs began with a recap of the fall sports season, highlighted by our Women's Cross Country team finishing in second place at the MAC Championship and sixth place at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional Championship, our highest finish since 2018. Between our Men's and Women's Cross Country teams, four student-athletes earned All-MAC honors. Football won its last two regular-season games to become bowl eligible for its sixth bowl game under Coach Creighton's leadership. This is the first time in program history that the Eagles are bowl eligible for a third consecutive year. The Soccer Team finished with an overall record of 1-12-6 and a Mid-American Conference record of 1-8-2. It was a tough year, but their future is bright with a coaching change as Coach Scott Hall retired after 25 years. The Volleyball program finished with an overall record of 5-25 and a Mid-American Conference record of 3-15. This was the first season under Head Coach Kevin Foeman who was hired in the spring. We are looking for much improvement over the new few years.

Basketball season has started and the men's team is off to a 5-3 start and a 3-0 record at home, the women have been on the road and have a record of 2-5 on the season. The Swimming and Diving team have had five dual meets and one invitational. They finished second in the Denison Invitational in Ohio.

**Development Updates:**

A review of the FY23 fundraising efforts were shared with the committee, along with an FY24 fundraising update. 1.3 million new money in the door. From July 1, 2023 – October 31, 2023 This fall semester, we hosted the E-Club Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony, All-Sports Reunion in conjunction with EMU Homecoming, celebrated the successful fundraising campaign of the Ben Braun Court Naming Campaign and also supported the University's Giving TrueDay efforts. Dan McLean highlighted the generous gift from Regent Emeritus Phil Incarnati that will be honored in the renaming of the Student-Athlete Performance Center to the Incarnati Athletic Center. Crowdfunding is underway for various sports: Baseball is fundraising for the TrackMan software system, Lacrosse is fundraising for extra low impact training equipment and Gymnastics is fundraising for new enhanced and updated equipment.

**Academic Update:**

Student-Athletes continue to work hard in the classroom, earning a 3.382 cumulative GPA at the end of the Winter 2023 semester, the highest departmental GPA since 1999. In total, 78% of our Student-Athletes achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and all of our teams had a 3.0 or higher team GPA in Winter 2023. We are graduating 89% of our Student-Athletes. These students have had a record breaking semester in regards to community service hours and DEI events.

**External Relations:**

We experienced an increase in football season ticket sales, as well as single game and overall revenue. Many of the new fan engagement areas within Rynearson Stadium, which included field suites, an enhanced kids zone and enhanced concessions offerings, were well-received by fans. With basketball season underway, fans can also expect to see similar enhancements inside the George Gervin GameAbove Center throughout the winter. We also put in place new safety measures such as the clear bag policy and added metal detectors. We have many facility projects underway, the Golf Performance Center, George Gervin Statue, Gymnastics Locker Room, Baseball indoor hitting space, GameAbove Film Room, Student-Athlete lounge and Rowing Suite formerly the Football Team Room. Andy Rowdon went on to thank Chris Grant, Scott Storrar, Kaye Sekerak and Chris Longerbeam. Without them none of these projects would be possible.

**Championship Building Plan Phase 2:**

Phase One was the Student-Athlete Performance Center that was a \$20 million facility that was completed in 2019. Athletic Director Wetherbee shared an overview of the proposal for the second phase of the Championship Building Plan. At the Board Meeting today we will have three projects requested for approval from the board including resurfacing Rynearson stadium to include the removal of the track. We are also planning on building a new outdoor track for our Track & Field programs near Westview Apartments. Lastly, we will update Oestrike stadium with a new concourse and main entry.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Barron  
Administrative Secretary



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

**Board of Regents Meeting *Athletic Affairs***

**April 18, 2024**

# EASTERN ATHLETICS 101

## VISION

*An unwavering commitment to building champions in the classroom, in the community, and in competition.*

# EASTERN ATHLETICS 101

## MISSION

***Eastern Michigan Athletics is relentlessly committed to:***

- The welfare & academic success of our student-athletes
- Following the rules of the university, MAC, CAA, and NCAA
- Providing a great fan and student-athlete experience
- Promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within our department
- Competing for Championships

# EASTERN ATHLETICS 101

## DEFINING PRINCIPLES

1. *Focus on the Student-Athlete*
2. *Possess great Integrity*
3. *Aggressively promote Eastern Michigan*



# EASTERN ATHLETICS 101

## MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE (MAC)

University of Akron

Ball State University

Bowling Green State University

University at Buffalo

Central Michigan University

Eastern Michigan University

Kent State University

Miami University

Northern Illinois University

Ohio University

University of Toledo

Western Michigan University

\*University of Massachusetts (2025-26)

# EASTERN ATHLETICS 101

## PORTFOLIO

- 19 Sports
- 500 Student-Athletes
- 14 Head Coaches
- 36 Assistant Coaches
- 60+ Full-time staff members
- 18 Graduate Assistants

# EASTERN ATHLETICS 101

## CLASSROOM

- Graduation Success Rate: 89%
- Current Cumulative GPA: 3.404
- Number of student-athletes above a 3.0 Cumulative GPA: 354 (78%)
- Every team had over a 3.00 GPA
- More than 5,000 community services hours reported this fiscal year

# Winter Sports Recap

- Men's Basketball
- Women's Basketball
- Gymnastics
- Swimming and Diving
- Track & Field

# Spring Sports Update

- Baseball
- M & W Golf
- Lacrosse
- Rowing
- Tennis
- M & W Track & Field

# Facilities Update

- Rynearson Stadium Turf Project
- New Outdoor Track & Field
- Dome Completion
- Miscellaneous Project Updates

# Eastern Athletics Spotlight

## Women's Basketball



