

**Meeting Minutes**  
**University Athletics Council**  
**Monday, April 25, 2016**  
**1:00pm**

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**PRESENT:** Austin Anderson, Christy Baker, Linda Bennett, Brody Broshears, John Campbell, Olivia Clark-Kittleson, Alex Eaton, Katie Ehlman, Andrea Gentry, Mary Jo Harper, Brian McGuire, Kim Reddington, Linda Tribble, Eileen Weber, Lucas Woodford

**CALL TO ORDER AND MINUTES:** Katie Ehlman calls the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. She introduces Eileen Weber to the Council, and announces that Jeff Sickman will replace Steve Bridges. She thanks Lucas Woodford for his time on this Council and congratulates him on his graduation this Saturday. Mary Jo Harper introduces Caleb Fendrich from Financial Aid office. Motion to approve February 5, 2016 meeting minutes is made by Brian McGuire. Linda Tribble seconds motion, minutes are approved.

**ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Alex Eaton)**

Women's Soccer Head Coach position has been filled by former Assistant Coach, Eric Schoenstein. Search process has begun for new Women's Soccer Assistant Coach.

Design phase of the PAC renovations continues -Plan is to build the basketball/volleyball facility where pool is (with seating capacity of approximately 4200.) This facility will also house graduation ceremonies. Architects hope to break ground early in 2017.

Career Planning - student athletes continued to work with Career Services this semester; mock interviews with outside employers. Expressway Dodge serves as a sponsor/help with expenses.

Successful spring on the playing fields - NCAA tournaments look to be a lock for women's golf, and men's tennis teams. Softball and baseball are currently in good positions to make the national tournaments. Men and women's track - great chance to send multiple students to the NCAA outdoor meet in late May.

USI Athletics will nominate Johnnie Guy (Cross Country/ Track) for the GLVC Paragon award, given to the top Male and Female seniors in the conference.

SAAC (Student Athlete Advisory Committee) competes within the GLVC schools for the SAAC Challenge. USI activities include fund raising for Make a Wish and Ronald McDonald House, preparing/serving a meal, and making tie-dye blankets for Ronald McDonald House.

Jon Mark and Alex Eaton are both serving on NCAA RAC (Regional Advisory Committees, Jon Mark /Baseball, Alex/Softball.) These committees serve through conference calls to help decide what teams advance to NCAA post season.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

GLVC Presidents Council issues: #1 Divisional play, some schools are financially strapped and the amount of travel is not getting warm reception. Council members discuss missing classes due to travel. President Bennett adds that the GLVC is going through branding in terms of developing a more consistent message that echoes that of the overarching Division II message. She adds that GLVC is entering into a "mission and visioning" process. President Bennett tells University Athletic Council that she will report back after President's Council meetings.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Academic Progress and Integrity**

Brody Broshears reports that this group will make a summer goal to draft an attendance policy. Team GPA award went to Women's Cross-Country; nearly 3.6 cum GPA. Men's Soccer, had the highest Men's GPA at 3.323. Student athletes continue to do great things. Brody, is a member of GLVC Steering Committee and remarks that one of the biggest issues being discussed is sportsmanship.

### **FISCAL INTEGRITY AND FACILITIES PLANNING**

New Council member, Jeff Sickman, will be reaching out to Committee members and acquainting himself with the objectives and mission of this particular sub-committee.

### **GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE**

Mary Jo Harper reports that she will send out an invitation for this committee to get together in the next couple of weeks. Alex Eaton reports that coach/camp/expenditure spreadsheet procedure went well, but adds that it will be more conclusive test this next time since it was introduced this past year in June to turn in at August. Data will cover a whole year instead of a just a few months. Coaches have been reminded of camp and clinic legislation during Athletics monthly meetings. Mary Jo Harper will keep a close eye on it to make sure that it meets the requirements and needs that were intended.

### **STUDENT ATHLETE WELFARE AND EQUITY**

Austin Anderson reports on interest and abilities surveys as the focus of the gender equity plan. He distributes two handouts containing graphs providing a snapshot of outcome. Survey

questions include reasons why students have never been a student-athlete at USI? Whether they participated in sports in high school? What sports did they participate in during high school? And what sports students would be interested in, if offered at USI? The survey was helpful to learn interests but also looking towards the long-term future of athletics. Katie Ehlman reminds that each year, this sub-committee reviews three or four items. Interest and abilities was one of the items reviewed over the last twelve months. There are approximately 350 student athletes counting cheer and dance, this number does not include intramurals. President Bennett comments that a key factor tied to recruitment is development of additional sports. She adds that USI must look at this because some of the other schools have adopted so many different sports that USI is not going to end up being competitive for the All Sports Trophy and other recognition in our Conference. President Bennett asks Andrea Gentry to give a report to this Council at the next meeting regarding the impact of the Capital Campaign on athletics. The President explains that the campaign has an impact on scholarships and other areas.

Austin Anderson continues, this year's item on the gender equity plan focuses on scholarship aid, financial distributions, coach's salaries and scheduling for games and practices. Some data has been gathered but a different approach will be taken to gather data from the student athlete prospective. He states that this sub-committee is ready to move forward with some education initiatives and would like to ask the full Council for some input. Katie Ehlman asked that he send an email out to Council members asking for input about these initiatives and asks for Council members to reply.

Austin Anderson explains that for the last 2 years this sub-committee focused on how the Athletic Department can become more inclusive; and in particular how this relates to LGBT student athletes, participants, coaches, fans. This committee wrote the Inclusion Statement which is now posted all around PAC Building. He adds that this sub-committee is ready to move forward with the issue of intra-team dating and wants to address this issue with coaches soon. NCAA will put out a relevant video this summer. Committee will view this video and has been looking at other schools' policies for ideas. Austin Anderson, Alex Eaton, and Katie Ehlman attended an NCAA Inclusion Forum this past spring. Austin Anderson explains that the NCAA has a relatively established policy when it comes to trans-gender participation. Alex Eaton recommends a very broad policy due to personal nature of each individual. Katie Ehlman adds that after she attended this Forum she was struck by how important it is to educate about these issues, and suggests perhaps beginning these discussions in the fall. President Bennett wants to reach out to the design team in terms of the PAC renovation and hopes that thought has been given to this. She adds that she wants to make sure that physical space makes sense to ALL athletes. The President suggests that Jeff Sickman get informed/involved as he takes on

Chair of the Facility Planning and Fiscal Integrity sub-committee. Katie Ehlman comments that this is important in order to create a safe space for both student athletes and our entire student body. President Bennett comments that this is an opportunity for Athletics to lead the way for our entire campus.

President Bennett thanks Katie Ehlman for stepping up and being Chair of this Council and for her leadership and adds that she appreciates everyone around the table being willing to take the time for this.

### **Data Dashboard**

Alex Eaton, Linda Tribble and Kim Delaney have put together the updated Data Dashboard. The latest draft is presented to the Council. Alex Eaton explains that the *Season highlights* section, and section under *Facility Planning and Fiscal Integrity* (back page) are not completely finished. Softball has just completed and Baseball is still competing so these capacity numbers aren't entered yet. Also, some revenue and expense numbers are still being audited by Accounting/Jeff Sickman's office to be sure they are correct before going to print. She adds that beginning in 2014-15 Men's Track and Women's Track is being coded separate from Men's Cross-Country and Women's Cross-Country, (Page 2 GPA Trend Data.) Katie Ehlman directs Council to look over and make any suggestions regarding different formats/ways for presenting data. She also reminds this Council to look for any variance in data, questions, insights, suggestions, regarding this data. Several Council members make observations. Katie says that when the final pieces are able to be inserted, Alex Eaton will send draft to committee members for additional feedback by e-mail. Katie Ehlman will send the final version out to Council via email for final vote/approval.

Katie Ehlman reminds that Council will meet once in the fall and twice in the spring.

Meeting adjourns at 1:58pm.