

McNeese State University Athletic Committee
Minutes for 11-8-06

- I. Call to order
 - A. Meeting called to order by Michele Martin at 4:00 PM.
 - B. Members absent: Dr. Gwen Duhon.

- II .Approval of agenda
 - A. J. Patterson made the motion to accept the agenda; C. Northam seconded.
 - B. Motion passed.

- III. Reconstruction of minutes from September meeting
 - A. Minutes will be presented at February meeting.

- IV. Athletic Director's Report – Sonny Watkins
 - A. Budget update – have claims to recoup from storm damage; gasoline prices have risen and impact travel. Two I A football games totaled \$500,000 in income, but travel expenses have to be subtracted. Home game attendance has been up and down; there gate receipts have been lower than ever.
 - B. Facility update – roof has been completed on Memorial Gym, and bids are being received for the floor. Practice fields (football) are now in shape. Have not started the Women's Athletics Fieldhouse because costs have risen, and the state has added fees. Permanent fence is needed around the softball complex to keep vandals out; have to use the temporary orange fence because permanent fence is to connect to new fieldhouse. Bids for the baseball wall are being accepted; parents and fans have complained. Soccer needs film tower. Track needs to repair fence from storm damage; temporary orange fence is up. Cross country meets are being held at District 4 Rec Complex off Highway 14.

- V. Senior Women's Administrator/Compliance Officer Report – Bridget Martin (written report)
 - A. Self report in soccer submitted. No further action required.
 - B. Vote in January to permit 12 football games.

- VI. Academic Issues Report – Deb Kingrey (written report)
 - A. SAAC issues (Jana Jones) – had two meetings to prepare for NCAA recertification. Athletes will participate in "MALLOWEEN" (on MSU and SLC web sites).
 - B. APR data will be public in February 2007.
 - C. Advisor workshop had 100 % attendance. Revisions will be done for the spring with General and Basic studies.

VII. Chair's Report – Michele Martin

- A. Correspondence report – congratulatory notes for academic accomplishments and sports achievements will be continued. In the process of writing notes to soccer.
- B. NCAA visitation is November 13-15. Marianne White has done a great job with preparations. Steering committee will meet with the NCAA group. Report is well planned and ready to go. Facilities are not where we want to be, but MSU is on the road to getting there. There is one issue to examine.

VIII. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Integrity

1. Report on Change of Grade Research (handout indicating number of regular students and student athletes who had grade changes to an "I") – data is from Spring 2002 through Summer 2006. Numbers for student athletes are well below that for regular students.
2. Report on Review of Fall Sports Schedules – all schedules except baseball are on the web. Page 35 of the Athletics Departmental Policy Manual states that "consideration for minimizing class absences will be the priority when scheduling. Sports schedules will be reviewed by MSU Athletics Advisory Committee. Scheduling of contests during final exam week will not be permitted unless Provost approves the event due to extenuating circumstances." D. Burckel questioned what coaches had in place for academic assistance when teams traveled. K. Awagain will look drop rate and report at the next meeting for baseball, softball, men's and women's golf, and men's and women's basketball.
3. Proposal for Communication between university coaches and instructors (written proposal): options were to leave issue alone, allow no communication at all (Colorado and USC have this in place), or come up a proposal in case the issue surfaced. Discussion followed. D. Burckel stated that a line should be drawn for discussing grade changes. K. Awagain stated that coaches are now responsible for the APR of their players. M. Martin stated that if we are asking coaches to become actively involved with APR, they can not be barred from talking with instructors. A. Dye stated that we need communication with coaches to get the true story. Dr. Hebert said that the policy must be adopted by faculty groups. M. Martin stated that the recommendation should come from the Athletics Advisory Committee. D. Burckel questioned having a policy in writing concerning grade changes because a faculty member felt pressured by a coach to change a grade. Suggestions were made to modify the policy. D. Burckel made the motion to include "Discussion of grade changes or additional assignments is not permitted". J. Griffith seconded. Motion passed.

IX. New Business

- A. Committee must read drafts of the NCAA certification report as it is written. Copies will be sent to committee members for their review and input. MSU

will have to provide documentation that various groups have reviewed the report.

- X. Adjournment – Brian Malveaux made the motion to adjourn at 5:20 PM; Daryl Burckel seconded. Motion passed.

All submitted written reports are available for viewing in the office of Michele Martin.