

Minutes of the BOAC Meeting, Feb. 1, 2007

Members Present: Iyer, Mazurana, McConnell, Shreck, Falger, Stotlar, Doerner

Ex-Officio Members Present: Boone, Henderson, Gray, Mills, Hinrichs, Christman

Guests: President Norton, CFO Haack, AVPAA Smith, University Counsel Lambden, Chief of Staff Langer, AVP Cardenas, AAD Kiser

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. Chair Michael Mills asked the members, ex-officio members, and guests present to introduce themselves and thanked the guests and members for their time.

University President Kay Norton spoke on the efforts to further integrate the Athletic Department into the campus and local communities. Noting the NCAA's emphasis on institutional control of athletics through greater integration, she discussed the role that the BOAC could have in helping to promote the Athletic Department and the welfare of the student-athletes by encouraging members to think of ways that the body could better serve the Athletic Department and the University. Norton noted the challenges facing the Department through reclassification and taking the next step to competitiveness while maintaining academic achievement, and thanked the members of BOAC for their service.

AVPAA Tom Smith distributed copies of the report of the Strategic Planning Team on Athletics. He detailed the process the committee went through in developing the strategic goals and assumptions that will help to guide athletics as it moves through the final stages of the transition into Division I and sets priorities in the areas such as academics, gender equity, competitiveness, and funding. Smith fielded questions about the report, noting the importance of community involvement in the process and the emphasis the Team put on greater funding in order to reach any of the goals set out by the report.

AAD for Academic Success Jimmy Henderson distributed copies of the fall 2006 grade report of student-athlete academic success for athletics. He noted that the overall cumulative GPA for student-athletes was 3.0, the average semester GPA was 2.96, and women's tennis had the high team GPA of 3.36. Henderson went on to highlight the accomplishments of the 4.0 and 3.2 GPA athletes, noting that the University has (this semester) started to recognize high achievement in academics among student-athletes. Ceremonies will occur every six months to recognize the academic achievements of the student-athletes from the previous semester. Henderson concluded by recognizing the Big Sky All-Academic student-athletes from the University.

AAD for Development Chris Kiser gave a report about fundraising efforts, noting three initiatives currently underway or about to begin. The Varsity Club is composed of former student-athletes and coaches who will provide outreach and prospect identification for the Department, as well as help to reconnect alumni and friends with the University and Athletic Department. The Blue-Gold Club is being renamed and revitalized to provide annual fund raising for scholarships through donations and special fund raising events. The Advisory Board is composed of senior level business leaders from the community

and area who will advise the Department about marketing, fund raising efforts, and public relations. Kiser noted that the University's Capital Campaign would begin this semester.

AD Hinrichs spoke to the body about efforts to integrate BOAC members into the Athletic Department budget process. Hinrichs proposed a subcommittee of BOAC members take part in the budget process by attending presentations having to do with athletics and taking part in the deliberate process of deciding budget priorities. The AD asked the BOAC for volunteers to serve in this function, noting that the commitment would entail approximately a week of evening meetings. Chair Mills volunteered to serve on the subcommittee and encouraged any member interested to contact the AD or Chair.

AAD Henderson noted the on-line distribution of a draft syllabus for the Champs Life Skills Course that will be first offered in fall 2007. This course will be required of all freshmen student-athletes and is designed to aid in the transition to college; study-skills and time management; issues unique to the student-athlete; and identifying at-risk and struggling students. The course will be offered as a special section of ID 108, carry one hour of graded credit, and deliver all the content required of regular sections of ID 108. Henderson fielded questions about the course and asked for any input the BOAC membership might have about the course and its syllabus.

AD Hinrichs noted the on-line distribution to the BOAC members of the Athletic Department's latest Strategic Plan and calendar of key dates. The development of the 10 year calendar, which came through the certification process, will help to ensure the Department will meet deadlines for reports, meetings, etc. The Strategic Plan is designed to help the Department move forward in its goals and meeting the needs of the student-athletes. Hinrichs asked for volunteers to help the Department take the next step in the planning process. AVP Cardenas volunteered to serve, and Chair Mills encouraged BOAC members to contact the AD if they are interested in being part of the strategic planning process.

In the interest of time, AD Hinrichs then offered to send a calendar of upcoming external and special events to Chair Mills for distribution to the BOAC membership by email.

University Counsel Ron Lambden asked the BOAC members to review, by the March meeting, the University's bylaws concerning the BOAC, especially Bylaw III "The Powers and Duties of the BOAC." Lambden noted that the BOAC's role as an oversight and monitoring body may evolve to take on more responsibilities and duties. Lambden tasked the members to think of ways to make the body even more effective.

Chair Mills announced the next meeting would take place, March 1st, at 4:00 p.m. in the High Plains Room at Nottingham Field. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Submitted by

Michael Mills, Chair