

Minutes of the BOAC Meeting, February 24, 2009

Members Present: Stephens, Iyer, Ellis, Larson, Walker, Doerner, Pierce, Van Otterloo, Johnson, Dunsmoor **Ex-Officio Members Present:** Hinrichs, Henderson, Mills, Gray, Christman, Adams **Guests:** Scott Downing, Walt Francis, Jack Maughan

The meeting was held at the High Plains Room at Nottingham Stadium and called to order at 5:01 p.m. AAD Jimmy Henderson then reported on the Academic Success efforts for student-athletes and distributed a copy of the fall semester 2008 GPA report. Grades overall for all student-athletes showed a slight drop, some of which may be attributable to the University's implementation of a plus/minus grading system as was evidenced by the drop in overall GPA for the whole student body in fall 2008. Several teams showed marked improvement in GPA and Henderson noted the latest graduate rate numbers the sports programs in the Department, many of which are the highest in the Big Sky Conference. Henderson discussed several initiatives for better serving the student-athletes and answered questions about mid-term grades and faculty response.

SAAC Representatives, Hillarie Van Otterloo and Ryan Johnson gave the SAAC report, explaining the purpose and efforts undertaken by this student-athlete group. Johnson outlined efforts being undertaken by the group to increase participation and enthusiasm in support for other sports and noted that elections were coming up for next year's officers. The Chair noted that Van Otterloo and Johnson were seniors and would graduate within the next few semesters.

Jack Maughan, Head Wrestling Coach and Director of Development, then gave an overview of fundraising efforts on campus in the areas of fundraising. The University's Blue/Gold Booster Club is having events designed to increase fan support and raise money for student-athlete scholarships. He noted that, as of present, a number of the Department's endowments were suffering from the nation's economic decline. He noted that on February 27th, the University's Athletic Hall of Fame dinner will be held and on April 18th, the Women's Walk fundraiser will occur. A discussion then ensued about ways that the campus and community could be encouraged to become more involved in Athletics and a number of interesting ideas were put forward by the Board for increasing ticket sales, fund raising, etc. Gray noted, to the agreement of the Board, that the emphasis needs to always be on supporting the student-athletes first.

UNC head football coach Scott Downing then spoke about his team's present and future condition. He noted that the team's overall GPA had increased, the team's APR of 935 was well above the NCAA threshold, and football's 87% graduation rate was the highest in the Big Sky Conference. He discussed some of the upcoming events designed to get the football student-athletes involved in the community including the "Real Men Read" elementary school outreach program, a blood drive, the Bear Cub Clinic, and the successful fundraiser 'Football 101 for Women.'" He also noted his pleasure with the progress the team is making in physical strength and conditioning, both keys to football success. Downing then discussed several honors his team had garnered including an FCS Second Team All-American selection, an All-State Good Works Team selection, and several Academic All-District selections. He noted that spring recruiting had finished with the University signing 14 players, 7 of whom from out-of-state, and the addition of 12 walk-on players. Downing finished by noting three upcoming dates: March 25th- Spring

Practice begins, April 18th - Spring Game, and opening day for the 2009 season will be September 5th against the University of Kansas.

AD Hinrichs began by introducing Walt Francis as a volunteer assistant for Athletics and then addressed part of the BOAC bylaw requirement “To recommend, evaluate, and monitor policies governing athletic conference affiliation, post-season competition, intercollegiate athletic schedules, sponsored sports, and eligibility requirements.” The Athletic Department now is affiliated with 5 intercollegiate athletic conferences: the Big Sky Conference (14 sports), the Great West Conference (baseball), the Pacific Coast Softball Conference, the Western Wrestling Conference, and Conference USA (swimming and diving). Baseball and softball will both begin conference play in 2010. This year softball will host the Independent postseason tournament in Greeley, and wrestling is host to the conference regionals. In spring intercollegiate competition, track and field competitors are finishing their indoor season at Northern Arizona, and both basketball teams are seeking post-season berths. Most sports are in action this spring. Another upcoming event for the university is the Tom Benich Invitational track and field meet at Nottingham Stadium on April 4th. Hinrichs then discussed the upcoming renovations to Butler Hancock slated to begin May 10th when the Department moves to the Bishop-Lehr Building. With new classroom space, a Hall of Fame, more meeting spaces, a strength and conditioning center, a sports medicine center, and renovated locker and teams rooms, Butler Hancock will be better suited to serve the University’s academic and athletic needs. Construction is slated to be concluded September 10, 2010. Finally, Hinrichs gave an update on the budget by handing out budget sheets for three non-Big Sky Conference sports supported by the university (men’s golf, wrestling, and baseball), and explained how each actually contributes dollars to the University through scholarships, tuition, room and board, etc.

The Chair then thanked the members present for their service and announced that BOAC would reconvene April 28th at 5:00 p.m. in the High Plains Room of Nottingham Stadium.

There being no further announcements or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.
Submitted by Michael Mills, Chair