Minutes for IAC Council Meeting
February 18, 2009

Voting Members Present: Swint Friday, Bilaye Benibo, Kathy Deis, Raul Prezas, Frank Spaniol, Marilyn Spencer, George Tintera, Anantha Babbili, Jody Nelson

Voting Members Absent: Ron Scott, Ann DeGaish, Kimberly Connelly, Ashley Wadkins

Non Voting Members Present: Kathy Funk-Baxter, Jacqueline Hamilton, Trent Hill, Margaret Dechant

Non Voting Members Absent:

Invited Guests Present: Scott Street, Scott Lazenby, Carol Blackmar, Margaret Lucero, Eric Rohne, Jennifer Baker, Ed Posaski

Invited Guests Absent: Robert Nelsen, Arthur Haas, Mark Bohling

Dr. Swint Friday called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

November 19, 2008 Minutes were approved.

The following documents were distributed:

a. February 18, 2009 Agenda
b. Membership List of the Intercollegiate Athletics Council
c. 2008-2009 Men’s Basketball Academic Improvement Plan
d. NCAA FARA Letter from the Editor (July/August 2008)
e. TAMUCC Athletics Quarterly Review of Revenues & Expenditures – 1st Quarter FY 2009
f. Athletics Tutoring Schedule
g. Accountability Policy
h. Academic Affairs Committee February 16, 2009 minutes.
i. Compliance and Student-Athlete Welfare Committee February 2009 Report

The following are the chairs of the committees:

a. Academic Affairs Committee: Dr. George Tintera
b. Compliance Committee: Dr. Frank Spaniol
c. Budget and Operations Committee: Dr. Raul Prezas

By the end of the Spring 2009 semester, committees are to have their formal charge completed and submitted to the IAC Council for final approval.

I. Old Business

a. Academic Affairs charge is to be added to the November 19, 2008 minutes.

II. Overview of Current Athletic Department Operations

a. Student-Athlete honors:
   19 – Southland Conference Honor Roll
   3 – 4.0 G.P.A.s
b. Currently, there are 4 ineligible student athletes: 1 in Men’s Basketball, 1 in Women’s Track, 1 in Baseball and 1 in Softball. One is expected to be regained.

c. The Accounting Policy is now in place. Student Athletes lose points for failure to complete various activities, such as attending study hall. However, these points can be earned back.

d. Update on Athletic standing
   1. Men’s Basketball 8-2
   2. Women’s Basketball 5-5
   3. Track Competing
   4. Softball 5-6
   5. Baseball Opens this weekend
   6. Tennis 3-3
   7. Women’s Track 3-3
   8. Golf Good showing in 1st tournament

e. Athletics has hired a new Volleyball Coach, Tony Graystone. He has an average winning of 85% and has taken his teams to the NCAA Conference and the Elite 8.

f. The Dugan Wellness Center, while complete, still has some facility issues.

g. TAMUCC hosted 1st division game on campus on January 24, 2009. Students seemed to enjoy the game. We are looking into hosting additional preseason games on campus next year.

h. Scott Street has been meeting with Eric of the Student Government Association, in an attempt to bring student-athletes and student government together. He will be attending the IAC meetings from this point forward. Scott Street has requested a 5% increase in the athletic fee and the Student Government will be voting on Friday.

III. Committee Reports

A. Academic Affairs
   (Jennifer Baker, Kathy Deis, George Tintera, Ann DeGaish, Margaret Dechant)

The following documents were distributed:
   1. Academic Affairs Committee Report to the IAC
   2. Tutoring Schedule
   3. Accountability Policy

- The Academic Affairs Committee is currently reviewing the Student Athlete-Handbook.

- Jennifer Baker distributed the Tutoring Schedule which reflects the hours and subjects in which the student-athletes may receive additional help with their studies. Currently, there are 6 subject tutors who are all located in the Study Hall in Classroom East. There are 5 learning assistants who work 5 hours per week, one-on-one with the student-athlete. They assist with the entire learning process, including study skills, schedules, etc. There are also 3 graduate students who are also assisting the student-athletes.

- The Accountability Policy was then distributed. It discusses the point procedure and how a student athlete can lose points and the disciplinary actions associated with point reduction. It was noted that some of the sports teams have more stringent guidelines than others.

Some suggestions made about the point system include:
1. Student-Athletes losing points for not timely submitting travel forms to professors. It is believed that student-athletes should not be allowed to participate in away events or even leave campus if the form is not properly processed.

It was noted that there are some problems with the current policy. It will take a semester or two to determine what processes are working, which ones need tweaking and which ones don’t work at all. The Athletic Department will review the policy after the summer semester and will restructure accordingly.

- The Oversight Committee will be meeting next week to create a Life Skills Focus Group. This Focus Group will consist of representatives from each college and department of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The purpose of the Life Skills Focus Group will be to ultimately determine if such a course is needed at TAMUCC and if so, what should be covered, the length, and other issues associated with the creation of a new class.

- Exceptional Talent – the new policy has gone to the Faculty Senate, however, there are now currently two policies. It appears that the original one was “secret” and was not published in any of the University catalogs. This particular policy was created by former Provost, Sandra Harper, which was followed by the administration, but never went before a committee for the Faculty Senate.

The new policy is one that will be published in the catalogs, as required, and will also be fashioned as an Admissions Policy and not a University Policy. It will apply to all students, not just student-athletes. It was also created to work with Upward Bound.

It should be noted, that after an extensive review, very few students have actually been admitted under the Exceptional Talent policy.

One issue that was brought up was who would be responsible for signing the Exceptional Talent Admit Forms…the Provost or a committee? Robert Nelsen will look into that and report back.

B. Compliance
   (Scott Lazenby, Ron Scott, Bilaye Benibo, Frank Spaniol, Carol Blackmar, Trent Hill)

The following documents were distributed:
   1. 2008-2009 Men’s Basketball Academic Improvement Plan

- Men’s Basketball Improvement Plan – it addresses the needs of academic issues and will be submitted to the NCAA. A plan had to be created because our APR is below a .900, which is mainly due to a coaching change. We have filed for a waiver due to the coaching issue, and we are hoping for leniency.

At the mid-point of the semester, 5-7 were not passing. By implementing these new policies, only 1 is not passing.
Minutes for IAC Council Meeting  
February 18, 2009

APR is a measurement of a University’s ability to retain student-athletes and keep them through graduation.

At the end of the academic year, a group will be formed to review the progress of the Men’s Basketball Academic Improvement Plan and will fill out the last two columns on the sheet and this committee will present its findings at the Fall 2009-2010 IAC meeting.

- Scott Lazenby will email Baseballs APR numbers as soon as they are calculated. Last year, we were up above a .959, which is exceptional.

C. Budget and Operations  
(Ed Posaski, Mark Bohling, Kathryn Funk-Baxter, Raul Prezas, Marilyn Spencer, Jacqueline Hamilton)

This committee met on 2/11/2009 to develop the 1st Quarter Budget (September, October, November)

The following documents were distributed:
1. TAMUCC-Athletics Quarterly Review Revenues and Expenditures 1st Quarter FY 2009.

- If student fees were raised, that would increase revenue by $140,000.

- Fundraising – economic shortfalls in the community are a factor which is going to affect future fundraising.

- It was requested that for future reports that there be itemized lines. Kathy Funk-Baxter said that she will provide that information.

- Jacque Hamilton stated that the facilities continue to remain in the field house. Phase II of the Nursing/Kinesiology building has started. This new building will include classrooms, labs, 2 fitness centers, a gym, and will be housing the athletic training group.

- There is now a Masters of Kinesiology in Athletic Training and there are currently 50 students enrolled.

IV. Update on Ongoing NCAA Investigation Status Report

We are currently just waiting on a phone call from the NCAA to tell us when they are going to release their findings. We will receive this phone call 24 hours prior to the NCAA press conference. We are hoping to work with the NCAA in order to present a united front.

Out of this tragedy has emerged an improved athletics department and a very involved IAC committee.

V. Other Business
• Student Government – regarding the proposed increase in athletic fees, Brian Teter promised after the last increase that the athletic department would not come back within several years and ask for more money. Currently, 3 yearly increases have occurred and he is not sure why the Student Government should vote for another one this coming Friday. Especially since the student athletes are not involved with the regular student population. He proposed a student/student-athlete committee.

• Dr. Spaniol wanted to address the lackadaisical way that faculty and administration are reporting issues with the Baseball team, specifically, “they have attitude problems”. If there is an issue, the reporter must provide “specifics” of the issue and go directly to the Athletic Director with their substantiated concerns. The faculty/administration must partner with the athletics department to overcome all of the breakdown which is occurring.

• SGA and the athletes should meet, as suggested by Eric (SGA) and find events that they can participate in together along with the entire student body, i.e. host parties before games. Also, maybe they could have some type of Game Day shirts that they wear to help encourage attendance at the games.

• It was also noted that there are no athletes currently serving on the Student Government Association. They should have some type of representation.

• Dr. Babbilli requested that the revised Student Athlete Handbook be distributed to all members for their review and address any issues at the next IAC meeting.

The IAC Council Meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Jessica Baber