Minutes for IAC Council Meeting  
November 19, 2008

Voting Members Present: Swint Friday, Kathy Deis, Raul Prezas, Ron Scott, Frank Spaniol, Marilyn Spencer, George Tintera, Ann DeGaish, Jody Nelson, Kimberly Connelly, Ashley Wadkins

Voting Members Absent: Bilaye Benibo, Anantha Babbili, Ed Cantu

Non Voting Members Present: Jacqueline Hamilton, Trent Hill, Margaret Dechant

Non Voting Members Absent: Kathryn Funk-Baxter, Jerry Susser

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

Invited Guests Absent: Robert Nelsen, Arthur Haas

Dr. Swint Friday called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

The following documents were distributed:
  a. Membership List of the Intercollegiate Athletics Council
  b. Membership List of the Intercollegiate Athletics Council Committees
  c. Minutes for IAC Meeting of 9/10/2008

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

It was noted by Dr. Friday that while some of the Committees have written their Committee’s Charge, they will not be formalized today as some of the Committees have not determined the Committee’s purpose as of yet.

I. Overview of Current Athletic Department Operations

Scott Street, Interim Athletic Director was introduced by Dr. Friday. Scott Street stated that he had been with the University for 3 months and that he and his department are actively working with the Oversight Committee and athletics is moving forward. The focus is now on the student welfare to make sure that the athletes succeed not only athletically, but also academically. Scott Street and his team have reviewed all of the sports programs and have begun implementing needed changes.

One of the changes has been to implement new continual monitoring systems, rather than depend solely on grading reports issued at the end of the semester. This new policy allows the athletic department to identify potential academic issues a student athlete may be having early in the semester so that Athletic Staff can intervene and provide the support needed for the athlete. It was noted that Jennifer Baker will now be identifying those students who need more attention and will work closely with them to ensure that they receive any help that they need.
The Athletic Department will begin implementing a one hour class for all new student athletes which will focus on life skills, such as academic, athletic performance, personal development and mentoring. It was discussed that a section on the Culture in Texas might be beneficial as well, since many of our athletes are out-of-state residents.

While it was discussed that the University now has a strong commitment to the student athletes, it was questioned by Dr. Spaniol if the student athletes had the same commitment to the University. He broadly discussed some of the athlete’s behavior issues. One idea proposed was bringing back graduated student athletes who were not only good athletes, but also good students. Scott Street mentioned that they are looking into having their 5th year athletes be paired up with the incoming freshman athletes in order to act as mentors.

Dr. Killebrew has also spoken with the student athletes to inform them that inappropriate, illegal or noncompliant behavior will not be tolerated. This also included poor academic performance.

It was also suggested that these student athletes are in a period of transition when they arrive on campus. Anyone who sees an athlete behaving in an inappropriate way should not hesitate to point it out to them so that they can learn and grow. It was also noted that the Athletic Department has been working closely with the Judicial Affairs Department when it comes to infractions involving the student athletes. If an athlete violates a policy or procedure, they will have their due process through the Judicial Affairs Council but they will also have to answer to the Athletic Department who might implement additional sanctions or punishments against the athlete above and beyond the punishment set forth by the Judicial Affairs Council.

The student athletic council (SAC) is becoming more active in helping the new student athletes adjust to their new surroundings. This committee is meeting now bi-weekly to discuss ways in which to promote the athletes on campus and help them integrate into the student body and with professors on campus.

At the end of the discussion, Dr. Spaniol wanted to reiterate that we can institute peer relations as a possible help to the student athlete’s images on campus, but that leadership is a must. Coaches and the Athletic Department must intervene in the discipline and direction of the athletes, mainly because the athletes are unfortunately held to a higher standard on campus.

II. 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

The committee has met twice (September 23rd and October 20th) and George Tintera has been elected Chair.

It was discussed that the Center for Athletic Academic Services, directed by Jennifer Baker, are responsible for monitoring the academic performance of student athletes and providing the services which appear to be deficient. In response to this, the Center:
1. Study Hall available 59 hours per week.
2. Attendance is required based on GPA.
3. Baseball has a traveling tutor.
4. Will be expanding due to purchase of 20 more computers.
5. Working with registration of student athletes to ensure that they are enrolling in the appropriate classes each semester.
6. Traveling students will have the ability to use one of the 20 new laptops purchased (with air cards) which will enable them to continue with homework and assignments while on the road. Coaches will check out the laptops for their athletes. Coaches will be ultimately responsible for the machine should loss or damage occur. The athletes will not be allowed to use these laptops for personal use while on campus.
7. The Center will begin using SAMS software which will track attendance of the athletes via a card swiper.

It was noted by Margaret Lucero that while the student athletes had tutors predominantly in the science and math areas, business tutors were lacking. Jennifer Baker responded by stating that the Athletics Department could only pay tutors $10.00 per hour. When she had previously interviewed potential business tutors, she found that their fees ranged from $25.00 to $30.00 per hour. Jennifer Baker stated that at the end of the Fall 2008 semester, her department will begin formally advertising for tutors. Her goal is to have Science, Math and Business tutors, (including all sub areas), in place for Spring 2009 so that when a student athlete approaches her for assistance, help will be in place.

It was noted that one way to circumvent the problem of pay rates with tutors was to send the athletes to the Supplemental Instruction Classes. Jennifer Baker responded that the Supplemental Instruction Classes were only offered during the day and that student athlete’s schedules were stacked which made them only available for the additional tutoring in the evenings. Margaret Lucero suggested that Jennifer Baker contact her for help in finding additional tutors in Business.

Dr. Frank Spaniol brought up the issue game schedules interfered with class time attendance. Scott Street noted that the current schedule was implemented by his predecessor and that they could not change the schedule. He stated that he and his team are conscious of importance of student athletes attending class and are taking that into consideration for next year’s scheduled games. He stated that there would be no games during finals, with the exception of the Southland Conference. He made it known that this schedule was out of the University’s control. The schedule is actually set by the presidents of the universities, and not the individual university itself.

Scott Street also noted that the coaches have made a concerted effort to cut down on the number of mid-week away games, and that the APR (Academic Progress Report) has gone way up since the new coach has been on staff.

Scott Lazenby stated that the University will know its new APR within the next three weeks and will email the Council exactly how the APR is calculated. The University’s APR will be publically announced sometime in April 2009.

Currently, baseball is below the required APR level, but only because the APR is calculated on a four year rolling average. The current coach has done a great job getting the APR up, but is having to contend with the previous coach’s low APR. Within the next year or two, baseball’s APR should be high.
Basketball is below the level due to a coaching change and Scott Lazenby informed the Council that the program may suffer the loss of a scholarship because of this. He stated that the University will appeal that decision, should it come to fruition, but he did not know if this was a fight the University could win.

It was questioned if the NCAA regulated when games could be played and how many days of class an athlete could miss due to weekday away games. Scott Lazenby stated that the NCAA does not put restrictions on game schedules.

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

The committee has met once. They have not developed their charge with the hopes that the IAC Council will provide the charge to them. Dr. Friday stated that he would contact Frank Spaniol to provide him ideas on writing the committee’s charge.

To date, the Committee has decided that the following will be some of their duties:
   1. Review the Compliance Handbook
   2. Review all submitted violations
   3. Review student welfare and title IX issues

Dr. Hill reiterated to the committee members that the information they will be reviewing is considered confidential and should not be discussed outside of the committee or council meetings.

Jody Nelsen suggested that the committee add to their duties reviewing the training of all staff regarding all compliance issues. In response, Dr. Hill stated that the Athletic Department is in the process of developing online training which all employees who deal at all with athletics will be required to complete. This will include coaches, support staff, and committee members. The online training will be flagged as mandatory via HR Connect.

Scott Lazenby stated that Justin Pallnow, the Athletic Compliance Coordinator, currently requires all coaches to attend a mandatory monthly training which he instructs. He also distributes monthly newsletters which can be found on the Athletics’ website under the Compliance Heading. Scott Lazenby gave the Council a brief overview of all of the information that anyone can obtain regarding compliance on the website.

Ann DeGaish brought up a point that originally, Athletics was to be submitting specific reports and information (i.e. exit interviews, etc.) to the Academic Affairs Committee for review, but she has not see this information. Scott Lazenby stated he did not know of this request and would contact her later to get the full list of documents that are to be submitted.

Scott Lazenby did state that students will now be completing Program Evaluation Reports each semester which will allow them to voice their concerns, questions, and praises for their program. Scott Lazenby will compile a report from the submitted Program Evaluations and will present them to the Committee and Council.
C. **Budget and Operations**  
(Ed Posaski, Mark Bohling, Kathryn Funk-Baxter, Raul Prezas, Marilyn Spencer, Jacqueline Hamilton)

The following documents were distributed:
1. The Charge of Intercollegiate Athletic Budget and Operations Committee
2. NCAA Division I Historical Data
3. Athletics Budget for FY 2009
4. Averages for Southland Universities
5. Estimated Value of Sports News Placement
6. 2009 Athletics Total Weighted SCH and Tuition Funds Generated by College

This committee will be responsible for:
1. Review of the annual budget prior to submission to the President.
2. Provide advice and counsel on matters relating to financial support (EADA Report).
3. Advise University Administration regarding long-term and short-term objectives that foster a financial support structure that is sufficient for compliance with NCAA rules and policies, as well as the overall academic performance and welfare of student athletes.
4. Provide support to facilitate addressing issues of operations and effectiveness.

Jody Nelsen questioned if fundraising fell under their jurisdiction. Dr. Hill stated “yes” and then recommended that Arthur Haas should be on this committee. Dr. Hill went on to state that there are three ways the University generated funding:
1. Student Fees
2. Self Funded (Fundraising)
3. Institutional Support

Ed Posaski introduced historical NCAA Division I data which showed that the average expense for FY06) for a Division I-AAA (non football) was $9.1 million. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s expenses for FY06 was approximately $5.3 million.

The next topic discussed was Athletics FY2009 budget. It was noted that “Revenues” consisted of the money that athletics brings in through fundraising and the student fees. “Transfers” refers to the money received through Institutional Support.

Dr. Hill stated that this budget was a “real” budget and that in past years the numbers were just filler. This FY2009 budget is tight and will not be adjusted. Dr. Hill also pointed out that when the budget was first discussed, it was at $5.9 million and that it had been cut down 6% across the board and not just 6% deducted from Athletics’ M&O. He reiterated that all departments were being required to hold 5% of their M&O back, in case the State enacted a mid-year call back, but that Athletics actually cut 6% across the board.

He went on to state that through the scholarships, showed regeneration of income and that if we did not have athletics, we would actually be losing money. It was shown that Athletics received approximately $1.4 million from Institutional Support, but that Athletics generated $1.6 million in scholarships.
Ed Posaski then discussed the Southland Conference FY06 budget. He stated that within the next week or so he should receive the FY07 budget and will distribute. In FY06, the standard guarantee was approximately $67,000, while TAMUCC had $94,000. It was questioned why, and he explained that in FY06, TAMUCC was still and independent and not part of the Southland Conference, and the department had to fill up the schedule. He stated that for future years, TAMUCC will still probably be above the guarantee due to scheduling.

The Council also reviewed the comparison of the Southland Conference Members and it was noted that only TAMUCC, UT Arlington, UT Lamar and UT San Antonio were members without football, however, UT Lamar and UT San Antonio were in the process of reinstating football. Currently, according to the comparison chart, TAMUCC and UT Lamar were similar in FY06. TAMUCC’s athletic expenses were below the norm.

Finally, it was discussed that another factor that the faculty and council need to consider was the amount of money that is saved in media exposure is $137,000 (16-week basketball season) and $77,400 for 36-week other sports. It was noted the OSU game will be aired on ESPN and picked up by other networks (exposure cost was unknown); the Sam Houston game would be aired by the Southland Conference Package; and the Whataburger (baseball) game would be aired on Fox News.

III. Update on Ongoing NCAA Investigation Status Report

Dr. Hill stated that the NCAA hearing was going to take place on December 6, 2008, in Kansas City, Missouri. The Oversight Committee has completed its pre-hearing with the NCAA Enforcement Committee and felt very comfortable that he knew exactly what would be presented at the hearing. All allegations had been reviewed and Allegation No. 9 had been dismissed.

The University’s main focus at the hearing will be to accept the punishments for the violations that happened due to previous coaching staff, but reiterate that the University has implemented new policies and has hired a terrific staff and that we are now transparent and stepping up our program. We are now a confident program.

In February 2009, the University expects to receive the NCAA’s findings. We will receive notification only 24-hours before the results are released to the media. The University has suggested several self-penalties to the NCAA and hopefully they will take our suggestions, but may invoke additional penalties. Dr. Friday will send out the findings to the council upon receipt so that those who answer to various constituents may address the findings prior to their release to the media.

It was also noted that Scott Lazenby has found additional violations since the initial NCAA alleged violations were presented to the University. It has been agreed that the later findings will be included and addressed during the December 5th NCAA hearing, so that the University will not have to have additional violations addressed which would make the University a repeat offender.

Dr. Hill ended by informing the Council that his office had a copy of the redacted TAMUCC’s NCAA response for anyone who wished to read it.
IV. Other Business

It was motioned and seconded that the other business listed on the agenda be tabled until the next meeting due to time constraints.

The IAC Council Meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Jessica Baber