

**University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
ATHLETIC BOARD
2020-21 Annual Report**

Members:

AkkeNeel Talsma	FAC	Nursing
Neal Pease, FAR	FAC	History
Barbara Meyer	FAC	Kinesiology
Dana Northrup	AS	L&S Student Academic Services
Jun Zhang	FAC	Electrical Engineering & Comp Sci
Kevin Hartman	FAC	Music
Steven Redd	FAC	Political Science
John Reisel	FAC	Mechanical Engineering
Jim Cleary	Alum	Alumni Association Member
Wendy Heintz-Joehnk	Alum	Alumni Association President or Appointee
Amanda Braun	Dir	Athletics Director
Steve Mohar	Dir	Rec Sports & Facilities
Kelly Haag	Dir	Student Affairs
Jakara Edwards-House		Student
Annie Guerrero		Student
Trevor Coenen		Student
Austin Smith		Student
Kathy Litzau*		Sr Assoc. Athl. Dir./SWA
Cathy Rossi*		Deputy A.D.-Finance
Clare Faurote*		Assoc. Athl. Dir.-Acad. Services
Jessica Kumke*		Assoc. Athl. Dir.-Compliance
Adam Schemm*		Sr. Associate A.D. – External

* Athletic Department members attending but not members of the Board

Charter:

Functions/ Responsibilities:

A1.5 Athletic Board

(1) Membership. Seventeen members as follows:

a) Five elected faculty members;

b) one faculty member appointed to a one-year term;

- c) the Faculty Athletics Representative appointed by the Chancellor;
- d) one member of the UWM Alumni Association, appointed by the Chancellor from a list of candidates submitted by the President of the UWM Alumni Association;
- e) one elected member of the Academic Staff;
- f) four students appointed by the Student Association, at least two who are/have been UWM student-athletes;
- g) ex-officio (non-voting):
 - a. UWM Director of Athletics,
 - b. The Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs,
 - c. The President of the UWM Alumni Association and
 - d. The Director of Recreational Sports & Facilities, or their respective designees.

(2) Functions.

- a) Develops and reviews university policies relative to intercollegiate athletics in conjunction with UWM faculty, administration, students, alumni, and controlling regulations, and oversees the implementation of such policies. Reviews the Athletic Department budget through the work of the Fiscal and Equity subcommittees, respectively.
- b) Recommends to the Athletic Director assignments of personnel to head coaching and all other senior athletic administrative positions, consistent with University and State of Wisconsin Personnel practices.
The Athletic Board will constitute a minimum of 40% of the overall Athletic Director Search and Screen Committee.
- c) Monitors policies and practices pertaining to equity and nondiscrimination within the Athletic Department pursuant to NCAA and UWM expectations.
- d) Oversees Athletic Department systems for providing student-athletes with academic services and monitoring their academic progress. Rules upon questions of eligibility of students under institutional and conference regulations.
- e) Provides oversight and advice to ensure adherence to NCAA and UWM policies concerning athletic scholarships and tuition remissions.
- f) Recommends to the Chancellor candidates for the position of Faculty Athletics

Representative.

g) Reviews the annual performance review of the Faculty Athletics Representative, as conducted by the Chair of the Athletic Board and the Athletic Director, and communicates the results of this review to the Faculty Athletics Representative and the Chancellor.

h) Maintains liaison with intercollegiate athletic organizations and conferences through the Faculty Athletics Representative.

i) Recommends to the faculty changes in policies that relate to intercollegiate athletics and that appear to be in keeping with the long-term development of the University.

(Document 1137, 3/15/79; UWM Administration approval, 3/20/79)

(Document 1441, 5/7/85; UWM Administration approval, 6/5/85)

(Document 1808, 4/23/92; UWM Administration approval, 4/28/92)

(Editorially revised, 4/26/02)

(Revised October 2007)

(Revised March 2012)

(Revised March 2017)

Meetings:

Fall Semester (2020)

September 9, 2020

October 7, 2019

November 4, 2019

December 2, 2019

Spring Semester (2021)

February 3, 2021

March 3, 2021

April 7, 2021

May 6, 2021

The steering committee of the Athletic Board consisted of AkkeNeel Talsma (chair), Kevin Hartma (vice chair), Dana Northrup (secretary), Amanda Braun (Athletic Director, ex-officio), Neal Pease (FAR), and Trevor Coenen (student).

There are three working sub-committees: Academic Integrity; Equity, Personnel, Fiscal; and By-laws, Governance/Compliance, Student Athletic Appeals. Each sub-committee has members of the Athletics department staff who provide and summarize the detailed information reviewed by the committee.

In addition, the Faculty Athletic Representative (Neal Pease) has a central role in UWM athletics. In this role, Professor Pease:

- Serves as the representative of the Board, the Chancellor, and the UWM Faculty to the Horizon League and intercollegiate athletic associations and activities,
- Works with the Director of Athletics and the Board in monitoring policies and procedures and the student-athlete experience.
- Is the connection between the student-athlete and the student-athlete's faculty when academic issues arise.

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Major Athletic Department Developments in 2020-21

The COVID-19 pandemic brought great challenges to all universities. Our athletics budgets were cut, open positions were frozen, and we had lots of COVID policies and procedures to follow. The Horizon League and the NCAA postponed fall sports championships to the spring, and winter sports were delayed in their start. All teams had modified schedules that focused on limited travel and playing the same conference opponent back to back to allow for 5 days between new opponents.

Our Sports Medicine staff led by Assistant A.D. Aaron Haselhorst, led the way in ensuring a healthy and safe environment for all our student-athletes and coaches. All student-athletes had to complete a health screening and temperature check on a daily basis. Depending on their sport, they also had to regularly get COVID tested. Coaches all followed strict guidelines of masking and social distancing during practices and competition.

We were limited to the number of staff we could have in the department, so many of our administrative staff worked from home. The winter/spring season had us back in full swing with all teams practicing and come February every one of our sports was competing at the same time. Our external staff did an amazing job managing all aspects of this extremely busy time.

Athletic highlights during 2020-21

- Indoor Track & Field
 - Horizon League Athletes of the Year: Michael Gorman and Meg Swietlik
 - Horizon League Women's Field Freshman of the Year: Nadia Vo
 - Horizon League Men's Runner-up
- Women's Cross Country
 - Horizon League Champions
 - Meg Swietlik finished first, earning a spot at the NCAA meet.
- Women's Basketball
 - Horizon League Regular Season Co-Champions.
 - Advanced to the semi-finals of the Horizon League Tournament.
 - WNIT at-large bid, and first round win.
 - Kyle Rechlicz - Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Division I Women's Coach of the Year.
- Men's Basketball
 - Advanced to the semi-finals of the Horizon League Tournament.
 - Signed Patrick Baldwin Jr., a consensus five-star recruit and one of the highest-ranked players in the 2021 class. The highest ranked recruit ever for Milwaukee and the Horizon League.
- Women's Diving
 - Horizon League One-Meter Champion: McKenzie Sanchez.
- Men's Soccer
 - Horizon League Freshman of the Year: Logan Farrington
 - Horizon League Tournament Champions, MVP Paola Gratton.
 - NCAA Tournament First Round
- Women's Soccer

- Horizon League Tournament Champions, MVP Elaina LaMacchia.
- NCAA Tournament and first round victory.
- Women's Tennis
 - Women's Tennis Horizon League Freshman of the Year: Greta Carbone
- Outdoor Track and Field
 - Horizon League Women's Outdoor Track & Field Runner-up
 - Horizon League Men's Outdoor Track & Field Runner-up
 - Horizon League Women's Championship Outstanding Performer, Running: Natalie Block
 - Horizon League Women's Freshman of the Year, Running: Natalie Block
 - Horizon League Women's Freshman of the Year, Fielding: Nadia Vo
 - Horizon League Men's Co-Freshman of the Year, Fielding: Austin Wallace
 - Horizon League Men's Coach of the Year: Andrew Basler
- Baseball
 - Horizon League Tournament Runner-up
 - Horizon League Reliever of the Year – AJ Blubaugh
- Athletic Director Amanda Braun named to NCAA DI Women's Basketball Committee.
- Horizon League Women's All-Sports Award – 1st Place
 - League-leading eighth women's all-sports award

Academic and Community Service highlights during 2020-21

- During the spring 2021 semester, Panther student-athletes earned a department GPA of 3.376. This marks the 42nd consecutive semester that our department has recorded a GPA of 3.0 or better, as well as the 13th straight with a 3.20 GPA or higher.
 - Highlights:
 - 55 student-athletes earned a perfect 4.0 GPA
 - 117 student-athletes earned a 3.8 GPA or higher
 - 8 Milwaukee teams achieved a 3.40 GPA or higher
 - Overall, student-athletes carry a cumulative GPA of 3.449
 - 171 student-athletes were placed on the Horizon League Spring 2021 Academic Honor Roll

Community Service 2020-21

- The volleyball team won the community service award with 10.7 hours of community service per student-athlete, an impressive amount considering the restrictions of the pandemic.

Financial Update

- Worked through FY21 Budget Projections which were again significantly impacted by the COVID-19 situation.
 - Segregated Fee Revenue was down significantly for FY21 causing the department to implement several cost saving measures.

- Ticket Revenue was down about 95% with baseball being the only ticketed event in FY21.
 - NCAA Revenue for the athletic department down approximately \$170,000.
 - Despite all of these lost revenues, athletics projects to balance a budget for FY21 and was able to save in several areas in a year where team travel was limited and recruiting travel was essentially non-existent.
- It is anticipated that the FY22 Budget should be back to a normal range and all early signs point to positive movement in ticket sales and NCAA revenue. It is our hope the student fee revenue also stabilizes over the next few years.

Facilities Updates

- Due to COVID-19, Panther men's and women's soccer started their 2020-21 seasons in February, which led to them playing a handful of their early season home games at the new MOSH Performance Center in Franklin, WI because of inclement weather conditions.
- The UWM baseball completed their first Spring season at their new facility, Franklin Field, in Franklin. Fans were able to be in attendance and the reviews of the new facility have been overwhelmingly positive.
- The design of the Klotsche Annex was completed in FY21 and bids are being taken for General Contractors. The facility is scheduled to begin construction in September of 2021 with a goal to be operational by the fall of 2022.