



**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
ATHLETIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEB 3RD, 8:00-9:45 AM**

Attendees: AkkeNeel Talsma, Kevin Hartman, Amanda Braun, Clare Faurote, Dana Northrup, Jim Cleary, Jessica Kumke, Cathy Rossi, Jakara, Edwards-House, Barbara Meyer, Adam Schemm, CJ Wilbourn, Jun Zhang, Neal Pease, Wendy Heintz-Joehnk, Steve Redd, John Reisel

Guest – Kyle Rechlicz

- I. Call to order by Chair, AkkeNeel Talsma at 8:02 AM
- II. Approved December minutes unanimously
- III. Updates from the Athletic Department:
 - a. Report from Director of Athletics, Amanda Braun
 - i. All of our teams are competing right now except cross country and baseball and they will be as well in a few weeks.
 - ii. Board of Regents approved the Basketball Practice Facility. State Building Commission in Feb is the last step of approval. Working with the architects and all is going well.
 - iii. GPA of 3.4 is really incredible and we are so proud!
 - iv. Mental health resources are sent often to staff and student-athletes.
 - v. Presented to Student Association last week on the Segregated Fee utilization. And shared the success of our programs. Cathy emailed the powerpoint presentation to the board. There were no questions from the students. Cathy did a great job reporting to the committee
 - vi. Non-stop communications with the Horizon League. Multiple meetings a week with the League. Discussed the schedule of events and the policies and procedures that are in place. Reach out to Kathy if interested in reviewing the document.
 - vii. Discussed fan attendance at outdoor sports. We are submitting a proposal for fans to be allowed in March. The City of Milwaukee lifted some restrictions this week.
 - viii. Update on Athletics Advocacy and Messaging Committee. The group is activated, thanks to AkkeNeel, Kevin, Neal and John for joining the group. Very strategic on what we talk about and to whom. Purpose: Utilize information, data and stories to share with various target groups the value of Panther Athletics to our university and our community. Working on getting on agendas of various campus committees. AkkeNeel presented to Faculty Senate last week and Amanda will in a few months. Other campus committees: University Committee, Academic Staff, Deans Group. Perspective of the Athletic Board is important, and the voices coming from peers is helpful.
 1. Faculty are very reactive to statistics. Sharing the GPA is very important.
 2. If you can show proof that athletics enhances the university it is a great message. Faculty sometimes think athletics is a detractor.
 3. Looking forward to getting in front of the committees. Will provide whatever information the committee recommends.
 4. Next steps, get on agendas and then will debrief after. And then add other groups to address (Student Association, Alumni and external groups).

- ix. Update from Jim Cleary - Hall of Fame was cancelled, hoping to have an induction in November 2021. 2 classes will be inducted.
 - b. Update from Diversity & Inclusion Workgroup – Kathy Litzau
 - i. December 19th - BRAVE Session #2 occurred and the Exec Team, Amanda, Cathy, Adam and Kathy responded to questions the student-athletes had asked in the first B.R.A.V.E. Dialogue. Questions we responded to were:
 - 1. How the staff recruitment and hiring process works, and our efforts to have a diverse staff.
 - 2. The importance to have diversity and equity trainings, and the timeline for those trainings for staff and student-athletes.
 - 3. Discussed student groups that are being formed -The Student-Athlete Voices group has representatives from each team, has met twice and has agreed to participate in Lead the Change in the spring. Lead the Change is a six-week program run by Student Involvement that gives students of all identities the opportunity to develop skills related to being an agent of change.
 - ii. January 13th – Real Student-Athlete Dialogue. No staff or coaches present. Themes were shared with Diversity & Inclusion committee.
 - iii. January 19th –
 - 1. Head Coach Discussion with their own team to discuss:
 - 1. Recruitment Process
 - 2. Team Culture & Discipline
 - 3. Importance of Representation
 - 4. Mental Health Resources
 - 2. All staff and student-athletes then joined a virtual meeting with the head coaches on a panel to discuss:
 - 1. How their meeting went with their own team and any lessons learned.
 - 2. Where you do stand on the line for racial justice? Does the push right now for people of color voices to be heard due to historical issues matter? Why
 - 3. What are you as a coaching staff doing to address fears? Fears about race, sexual identity, religion, all of the things that make each individual on your team unique. How are you presenting yourself so that students, particularly students of color feel comfortable reaching out to you?
 - 4. For teams that may be less diverse, when you bring in a new athlete what are you doing to make them feel included
 - 5. CJ – shared it was impactful to hear from all the coaches.
 - c. Athletics Report (written) discussion – No questions or discussion.
- IV. Guest at 8:15: Kyle Rechlicz, Women’s Basketball Head Coach
 - a. Interesting year with the pandemic and racial injustice, and then trying to play basketball. 5 seniors leading the front – leadership, playing, academically. 15-3 right now. 12 game winning streak against conference schools, beat IUPUI who was picked to win the HL. Team has not had any shut downs. They are taking the pandemic very seriously. 6 games left, we are #1 playing the #2 team this weekend. Academic rigors of going online has been good for some and hard for others. 3.54 team GPA, many with hard degrees. Our nursing student Bre Cera, passed her tests to get her nursing license and accepted a job at St.

Luke's in cardiac. Shared other athletes balancing their academics and career focus with basketball. Support from the academic staff is really great to have. Favorite team ever to coach, the events of this year has brought her team close together.

- V. Updates from Students
 - i. SAAC (Student Athlete Advisory Council) – Clare Faurote
 - 1. Tonight is the first meeting of the spring semester. Amanda will be a guest. The Exec Team members will each be a guest each meeting.
 - 2. Re-education of SAAC and the purpose will be discussed.
 - 3. Community service – will do more when the weather is better.
 - 4. Social Media – have been involved with campaigns of Black History Month, More Than an Athlete
 - ii. Horizon League SAAC – Trevor Coenen (at practice, no update)
- VI. December meeting update from Fiscal, Equity, Personnel, chair Kevin Hartman
 - a. Shared that the EADA is usually reviewed in December, but due to COVID was not submitted yet so that will be discussed at the next meeting.
 - b. Looked at how COVID impacted our revenues and expenses. Feeling good about this year so far.
- VII. Closing announcements –
 - a. Would it be helpful to help craft a message on the academics and the statistics. Department or college specific briefs to be sent to Deans. AkkeNeel shared with her all faculty meeting. She said the recruitment staff and some faculty that taught our athletes responded favorably. Data will vary by department (ic. School of the Arts has fewer student-athletes, Letters and Science has many).
 - b. List of S-As in each college would be helpful. Hesitant to share academic info if a small group in a college as we may have FERPA issues.
 - c. Thoughts from Amanda – create a habit of the summary of academic achievements to go to the Deans. Give the general, as well as the subset of each college. (Jan/Feb and May/June release.)
 - d. Advocacy meeting end of Feb or early March.
- VIII. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 AM.