



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
ATHLETIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
9/14/22

Attendance: John Gardner, Kevin Keenan, Peter Baran, Derek Handley, David Pate, Cathy Rossi, Clare Faurote, AkkeNeel Talsma, Adam Schemm, Barbara Meyer, Kathy Litzau, Amanda Braun, Michael Carvan, Nancy Rice, Kendall Nead, Anika Tylek, Kate Watson

- I. Called to order by AkkeNeel Talsma (Asked to call meeting by Sec of the University)
- II. Introductions of board members
- III. Welcome from Amanda Braun, Director of Athletics
 - a. This is an important committee for the athletic department. Use the AB for a sounding board. Thanks in advance for the work that is done.
 - b. This board helps with hiring and are incredibly valuable.
 - c. 13 top 3 finishes in the HL, finished 4th in All-Sport McCafferty Award just a few points away from second.
 - d. Student-athletes achieve at a high rate academically.
 - e. Mental Health support, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion initiatives continue. HL is providing a \$50,000 grant for mental health initiatives, Barbara shared that a PhD student of hers has experience in this area and will connect her to us.
 - f. Annex is progressing. December 2nd it will be turned over to athletics. A tour for this group will be scheduled, most likely in November.
 - g. Hired a lot of staff, 3 new head coaches (1/3 of head coaches) – hit it out of the park with those hires. Tennis, Women’s soccer, Men’s Basketball
 - h. This year priorities are to support student-athletes and staff in their mental health and diversity, equity and inclusion
 - i. Name, Image, Likeness through Opendorse, a company hired by the Horizon League for our student-athletes to use. Goal is to have NIL earnings, but think about life long earnings and assist our student-athletes in exploring career paths through informational interviews, internships.
 - j. A priority and a challenge is balancing a stable budget. Cathy Rossi does a great job managing this.
 - k. NCAA has new information regularly. The transformation committee has been working for a year on changing what DI athletics looks like. Transfer rules, NIL policy are among them. Our conference has one vote, one voice (Oakland President) in those meetings.
- IV. Approved May 2022 minutes
- V. Election of 2022-23 positions
 - a. Chair – Kevin Keenan nominated AkkeNeel, David Pate seconded – unanimous selection of AkkeNeel Talsma as Chair
 - b. Vice-Chair – Barbara Meyer
 - c. Secretary – John Gardner
 - d. For a future spring agenda: Talk about succession planning for chair
- VI. Orientation – Athletics liaison briefly reviewed committee work
 - a. Steering Committee – Amanda Braun
 - b. Academic Integrity – Clare Faurote
 - c. By-Laws, Governance and Compliance, Student appeals – Peter Baran
 - d. Fiscal, Equity, Long Term Development –Cathy Rossi

- VII. New Business
- a. Explained the meeting schedule with committees.
 - i. Full board meets 8:00-9:00 AM
 - ii. One committee meets monthly from 9:00-9:45 AM. Committee meeting schedule is provided at the bottom of the agenda.
 - b. Reviewed placement of Board members on committees. Let Kathy know if any issues with assignment.
 - c. Updates from the Athletic Department
 - i. Diversity & Inclusion update – Kathy Litzau
 1. NCAA S-A Unity Pledge Banner – signed by all S-As
 2. Lift Every Voice played before the National Anthem
 3. S-A Wellness Check-in – pilot with track & field, swimming & diving
 4. Diversity and Inclusion focus this year will be on experiential learning through community service. We ask that at least one community service event per team be connected to an organization in the City of Milwaukee that gives athletes a diverse perspective of our community. Visit Milwaukee has a great resource page that lists organizations that support the extraordinary culture of Milwaukee called [Unique Unites, Find Your Milwaukee.](#)
 1. The expectation is 8-10 hours of community service per student-athlete.
 2. Coaches can request to have an outside facilitator to assist with addressing topics similar to what was required the last two years.
 - ii. Adam – Tickets update. AB Roster is at soccer and volleyball, tell the ticket office when you arrive that you are on the roster. For baseball and basketball, and email will go out before home events on how to reserve.
 - iii. SAAC – Anika Tylek and/or Kate Watson, Co-Presidents
 1. Represent MKE SAAC – liaisons to administration. Have subcommittees: social media, diversity & inclusion, community service
 2. Keep engagement between student-athletes, through buddy teams
 3. Goals are to get S-As out in the community, and to support each other. This past weekend collaborated with MU on a beach clean-up, picked up 24 bags of trash.
 4. September 21st SAAC Welcome Back
 - iv. Horizon League SAAC – Ben Huyhn or Kendall Nead – Clare shared as she is the HL staff liaison
 1. DEI Social Media campaign in October
 2. Accountability partner is Oakland. Connect with those reps on the HL goals
 3. Mental Health grant, meeting on Monday to discuss how to move forward.
- VIII. Closing announcements – meeting adjourned at 9:02 AM