



**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE  
ATHLETIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>, 8:00-9:45 AM  
Virtual – Microsoft Teams**

Attendees: Steve Redd, Derek Handley, Jim Clearie, Kevin Keenan, AkkeNeel Talsma, Jen Earl Boehm, Adam Ahearn, Ari Miller, Cathy Rossi, Clare Faurote, John Gardner, Michael Carvan, Bo Zhang, Kendall Nead

Guests: Kyle Rechlicz & Kamy Pepler

- I. Called to order by Chair Derek Handley at 8:01 AM
- II. Confirmation of Chair and Vice-Chair, Bo Zhang
- III. Guest: [Kyle Rechlicz](#), Head Women's Basketball Coach and [Kamy Pepler](#), soph and [Kendall Nead](#), Sr.
  - a. Won 6 of last 8 games. One loss was on a buzzer beater.
  - b. Highlighted Kamy's and Kendall's contributions to the team, the team has a lot of weapons. Play at home on Thursday and Saturday.
  - c. Very high academic team, Team GPA was over a 3.5. Many different majors on the team.
  - d. Kamy shared the team has been playing really well, chemistry is great, the team is close. Lot of fun to play with this team. General health sciences is her major, she wants to get into a career in sports. She chose UWM because of the family atmosphere, the coaches and being close to home.
  - e. Kendall is a senior, shared this is the best season she's had since her freshman year. She is a Kines major, she was accepted into the Athletic Training program and will start this summer. Chose MKE for the family aspect, the city of MKE, loves the cities they travel to.
  - f. Kyle shared they haven't had a lot of transfers, the 8 in the rotation all started here as freshmen. Kamy's sister is joining our team next year as a Fr, and will also bring in a player from the portal. Have to check the portal every single day.
- IV. Approved December minutes
- V. Updates from the Athletic Department:
  - a. Report from Director of Athletics, Kathy Litzau on behalf of Amanda Braun
    - i. Welcomed new member, Jen Earl. Jen is subbing for Nancy Rice who went on sabbatical.
    - ii. Highlighted the work that our S-As do in the classroom – Fall GPA of 3.391. 47th consecutive semester – now spanning over 20 years.
    - iii. Provost Daire reached out to Amanda and Kevin Keenan to discuss strategies to get students to games and suggested a group from athletics join their Monday Academic Affairs meeting, this meeting is happening next week. Amanda wanted me to share how grateful she is for the work the Athletic Board did over the last few years led by AkkeNeel to get the message out across campus regarding the impact and importance of athletics. The Provost wasn't here at the time but no doubt others in the room will have heard the previous presentations.

- iv. Soccer Turf update: bid process is completed and a contract has been issued for work to occur later this spring.
- v. Departure of Cody Bohl, Asst A.D-Development and Panthers Unite
- vi. Team Updates:
  - 1. Tennis off to a good start going 2-0 last weekend
  - 2. Swim – HL Championships next week 2/14-17
  - 3. Track – Indoor HL Championships 2/24 & 25
  - 4. Basketballs have a month of regular season left, MBB 12-11/7-5 (5<sup>th</sup>); WBB 13-11/7-6 (T-5)
  - 5. Baseball has their first series next weekend at Fresno State
- vii. Purpose, Core Values, Vision & Priorities (attached)
  - 1. Started reviewing in August with Senior Team.
  - 2. After a few retreat meetings and great discussion, shared with head coaches and then staff for feedback.
  - 3. Next steps are to collect success plans and priorities to support and grow our programs.
- b. Update from Diversity & Inclusion Workgroup – Kathy Litzau
  - i. Events
    - 1. School Day Game – WBB January 10th
    - 2. Pride Game – WBB January 26<sup>th</sup>
    - 3. Black History Month – External has events planned all month
      - 1. John McClendon Celebration – MBB February 4<sup>th</sup>
    - 4. Pink Out – WBB February 8<sup>th</sup>
    - 5. National Girls and Women in Sports Game – WBB February 10<sup>th</sup>
  - c. Athletics Report (written) discussion – no further discussion
- VI. Updates from Student-Athletes
  - i. SAAC – Ari Miller
    - 1. Meet tonight, topics: Special Olympics volunteering, Be the Match, Nutrition
  - ii. Horizon League SAAC – Kendall Nead
    - 1. In December participated in a toy drive, donated over 500 toys
    - 2. Black History Month, celebrate John McClendon – recommended watch: Fast Break, documentary on John McClendon
    - 3. Goal is to educate the community on Black History Month
    - 4. National Girls & Woman in Sports being celebrated Feb. 8th – 10<sup>th</sup>
    - 5. Future topics: NIL, Future Employment, Mental Health, Engagement and Advocacy, Transfer Portal
  - iii. OneHL – Angelo Stuart – absent due to MBB travel
- VII. Report from Fiscal, Equity, Personnel – Chair John Gardner
  - a. Reviewed the minutes
- VIII. Adjourned at 8:57 AM