Athletics Committee Meeting  
April 20, 2016, 10:00-11:00 AM, DSB 2109A  
Meeting Minutes

Present: Paul Caster (PC), Michael Cavanaugh (MC), Giovanni Ruffini (GR), Shannon Gerry (SG), Alison Sexton (AS), Scott Hiller (SH), and Chris Huntley (CH).

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am.

I. Approval of Minutes of the February 10, 2016 meeting
   a. The minutes were distributed previously. MC moved to approve the minutes, SH seconded, the minutes were approved unanimously.

II. Brief update by Giovanni Ruffini and Chris Huntley on the triennial survey
   a. GR explained that we are currently waiting for the Spring report which takes place mid-April to early May. CH echoes that we are “closing-out” surveying for the winter sports today, but we will not have spring sports until May.

   b. GR suggests that we have a more specific routing protocol for the survey results. CH suggests that at a minimum the report should go to the Provost, Tom Pellegrino’s office, Gene Doris, and the General Faculty Secretary.

III. Brief update from Shannon and Scott on the strategic plan
   a. SG reports that no meetings have been held, but Zach Dayton spoke to her over the phone and basically reported the same information as he had reported to the committee at the February meeting. SH met with Zach and reports that it was basically an overview of the schedule to date.

IV. Graduation sashes/cords/tassels update from Paul Caster
   a. PC contacted Mary Frances Malone after the February meeting about recognizing graduating athletes by decorating them with a sash, cord, or tassel for the ceremony, as voted on by this committee at the February meeting. Mary Frances Malone said she would look into the prices of red tassels. PC followed up with Mary Frances Malone before today’s meeting. She reported that the graduation committee voted against the sashes, cords, and tassels because it is an academic procession and such recognition should be restricted to academic achievements.

   b. PC reported that he recommended to Stags Council that they look into existing, national honor societies for student/athletes as discussed at the February meeting.

V. Report from Chris Huntley on Spring schedules
   a. For the Spring 2016 semester, the scheduled readings days are May 4th, 8th, and 9th. Final Exams are scheduled from May 5th-May 12th.

   b. CH shared a report he received on February 8th from Mary Ann Palazzi, Coordinator of Programs for Student Athletes. The 2016 Spring Conflicts with Final Exams and Reading Days include:
i. Baseball:
   • 5/7: Home vs. Canisius (doubleheader) starting at noon and 3:00pm.
   • 5/8: Home vs. Canisius starting at 12:00PM

ii. Softball:
   • 5/7: Home vs. Iona (doubleheader) starting at 12:00PM and 2:00PM
   • *If the softball team qualifies for the MAAC tournament, the tournament will be held from Wednesday, May 11-14th. The softball team will likely leave on Tuesday, May 10th. Departure time would depend on which team is the highest seed.

iii. Men’s and Women’s Rowing:
   • 5/12: A selection of Men’s and Women’s rowers will travel to the Dad Vails Regatta

iv. Men’s Lacrosse:
   • 5/5-5/7: The CAA Conference Championship, thus missing final exams on Thursday, May 5th, Friday, May 6th, and Saturday, May 7th.
   • 5/3: The team would begin travel after classes
   • 5/11: If they qualify for the NCAA Tournament, the preliminary round will be held on Wednesday, May 11th during Final Exams week.
   • *If the Men’s Lacrosse team makes this game, they would leave either Monday night (5/9) or Tuesday (5/10). The departure time would be contingent on where the game will be held. This also takes place during final exams.

v. Women’s Lacrosse:
   • The top 6 teams qualify for the Women’s Lacrosse MAAC Tournament and will be hosted by the highest seed.
   • 5/6: Semi-finals. The team would leave after 8:00AM final exams on 5/5 (unless they travel to Buffalo).
   • 5/6-5/8: MAAC Championship, missing reading days.
   • *If they make the NCAA Tournament: NCAA 1st and 2nd round will be held on May 13th or 15th. The team would leave on Thursday, May 12th during final exams. The departure time is TBA.

vi. Men’s Tennis:
   • 5/4-5/6: If they plan in the NCAA Tournament, they would travel on May 4th or 5th to the NCAA Tournament on May 6th.

vii. Men’s Golf:
   • 5/3-5/5: If they are in the NCAA Tournament, they would travel on Tuesday, May 3rd. The Tournament is on Wednesday, May 4th.

c. CH reported that the league schedules matches on exam days. PC suggested that CH contact the Provost to get an e-mail out to all faculty making them aware of these scheduled conflicts. CH agreed to do that.
VI. **Report from Alison Sexton on spirit team contracts**
   a. PC reports that a complaint was received from a faculty member indicating that a student was asked to sign a contract as a member of the dance team, but was upset that she was not invited to dinner honoring student/athletes on the Dean’s List.
   b. AS notes that the letter was a standard contract noting that in the event that a member of the team quits the team, they are expected to return any equipment in their possession. AS notes that the contract contained some wording that was confusing to members of the Spirit Team. The Athletics Department is aware that some wording needs to be revised.
   c. PC invited AS to sit in for Gene Doris (GD), who was unable to attend. He indicated he had discussed the complaint with GD prior to the meeting and it was the position of the Athletics Department that the dinner had already outgrown the DSB Dining Room and also due to budgetary constraints, they drew the line on with varsity athletes only. AS noted, however, that all spirit team members are invited each year to the end of the year “banquet” honoring all student/athletes and spirit team members.

VII. **Any other new business?**
   a. With regard to housekeeping, PC notes that we should watch e-mails for approval of the April meeting minutes so that he can include them in the annual report filed with the Faculty Secretary. PC will also send committee members a draft annual report for feedback prior to the next full faculty meeting.

VIII. **Adjournment**
   a. GR made a motion to adjourn the meeting, CH seconded. Meeting ended at 10:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Audra K. Nuru.

Note: These minutes were subsequently approved by an e-mail vote of 7-0 on April 25, 2016.