Meeting Minutes of the Athletic Committee of the Faculty Senate

When: Wednesday, May 7, 2014 – called to order 12:02
Committee Members Present: Crystal Lanning, Thomas Pedersen, Roger Ternes, Earl Blodgett, Gillian McDonald, David Zaske, Grace Coggio, Brian Schultz

Where: Hagestad 131

I. Minutes from March 28, 2014 were discussed. Motion by Roger/David to approve – passed unanimously.

II. Announcements
   • Looking forward to next year, Grace will be in her second year of a two-year rotation as chair, Thomas will be rotating off. David reported that Student Senate has undergone extensive restructuring, with one result that there will only be two student representatives on this committee next year.

III. New Business
   • We discussed the Chancellor’s decision to suspend the Swimming and Diving teams and the impact. Coach Bollinger and the swimmers continue to respond with amazing composure and professionalism. They have a table in the UC today to say "thank you" for the 50+ years of competition, as a way to go out on a classy note. Crystal described the process that athletes need to go through in order to transfer and compete; so far, no one has contacted her to do that. Two other schools asked to be allowed to recruit our athletes, but recruiting of students from another school in general is not allowed. David added that many of the incoming freshmen are still planning on attending UWRF, although a few have gone elsewhere. He knows that a few of the current freshmen are talking about transferring.
   • Roger gave an update on the sanctions and the impact. Alumni and current athletes are concerned, but because we were very proactive in going to the NCAA, we really have a very mild penalty. As long as we have no further violations during our one-year probation, there will be no sanctions against any teams or athletes. It took 18 months of hard work to go through every single scholarship description to make sure we comply everywhere. We do have to publicize that we are on probation extensively. Brian noted that the NCAA D3 rules are excessively picky and actually hurt athletes by forbidding them to refer to ANY athletic accomplishments or experience when applying for scholarships.
   • Roger reported on the ground-breaking for the Falcon Center and Ramer Field, 150+ were in attendance. July 14 is the first day that contractors
can actually start work on campus. January 1, 2017 is the target date for getting the keys, although there is optimism that we might be getting in earlier.

- Crystal reported on spring sports. Softball did not make the playoffs, but had four players make all-conference and Faye Perkins got her 500th win. Track and Field just finished competing in the Conference meet, highlighted by Beth Riihinen winning the 10,000 meter run. Several athletes will compete in "last chance" meets to try for nationals. Golf and tennis had short cold spring seasons – Gillian observed that it was still a lot better weather than last spring!
- Crystal described the Falcon Awards program to be held this evening, it promises to be a lot of fun and a real celebration of the year.
- Crystal and Roger reported that UW-Superior is joining a Minnesota conference in a year, with the exception of their men's and women's ice hockey teams which will remain in the WIAC. This will not have any significant impact on our teams.

- Motion by Roger/Earl to adjourn. Approved and adjourned at 12:51 pm.