

McNeese State University Athletics Advisory Committee
<http://www.mcneese.edu/aac>
Minutes for 02/11/09

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Michele Martin (Chair) at 4:00 p.m.

Committee members present: Martin (Chair), Awagain, Blakeley, Clark, Daboval, Duhon, Dye, Fischer, Griffith, Hebert, Kingrey, Northam, Patterson, Pickering, Pitre, Watts

Committee members absent: Burckel and Poole

Presenters: Ryan Ivey, Bridget Martin, Deb Kingrey, Travis Pickering, Randi Fischer, Michele Martin

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda for 2/11/09 approved.

3. Approval of Prior Minutes

Minutes from 11/12/08 meeting approved.

4. Materials Distributed at Today's Meeting

Agenda (2/11/09)

Minutes (11/12/08)

2008-09 Membership (revised)

Report to MSU Athletics Advisory Committee (B. Martin)

NCAA Proposals Adopted w/Immediate Effective Date (B. Martin)

Academic Report (D. Kingrey)

SLC Commissioner's Honor Roll Congratulatory Letter - sample (Martin)

5. Mr. Ryan Ivey, Assistant Athletics Director/Internal Affairs

Non-conference football schedule (2009) includes road trips to Appalachian State (9/12) and Tulane (9/26) and home games against Henderson State (9/5) and Savannah State (9/19).

Update on Field House project provided (Jack Doland Athletic Complex). Groundbreaking set for Summer, 2009, with target completion date of December, 2010.

71 McNeese student-athletes made the SLC Commissioner's 2008 Fall academic honor roll.

SLC basketball tournament (2009) scheduled for 3/11-3/15 in Katy, Texas.

McNeese baseball starts 2/20/09. Softball already underway.

Discussion of advantages/disadvantages of basketball venues (Burton Coliseum vs. LC Civic Center). Lack of adequate locker room facilities biggest drawback to Civic Center. More amenities are available at Burton.

Local law firm has agreed to become an academic sponsor of McNeese athletics. Official announcement forthcoming. Certificates and plaques will be awarded for scholastic achievements of student-athletes.

Kamryn Koch has once again been named Southland Conference Soccer Student-Athlete of the year.

6. Ms. Bridget Martin, Senior Woman Administrator/Compliance Officer

Report to MSU Athletics Advisory Committee distributed.

McNeese has not reported any secondary violations since previous meeting.

McNeese submitted (12/15/08) required annual *Compliance Report* to the NCAA's Committee on Infractions (CIO). Two-year probationary period scheduled to end 2/7/09. Decision of CIO should be known by end of February.

On-going NCAA rules education activities (student-athletes, coaches, Compliance Committee) were discussed.

NCAA Proposals Adopted w/Immediate Effective Date (handout) distributed. Most of these proposals related to basketball recruiting (men's).

NCAA Recruiting and Athletics Personnel Issues Cabinet met during 2nd week of February. Areas of focus are:

- (a) early recruiting offers
- (b) technology in recruiting
- (c) limits in number of coaches per squad

More details available at: <http://www.ncaa.org/wps/ncaa?ContentID=34869>

7. Ms. Deb Kingrey, Academic Counselor for Student-Athletes

Academic Report handout distributed.

McNeese awaiting decisions on 5 waivers filed with NCAA for relief from penalties incurred due to 2007-08 APR scores (baseball, men's golf, football, women's basketball, and softball).

51 McNeese student-athletes made the President's Honor List (3.5 GPA w/15 hrs. minimum) for Fall, 2009.

98 McNeese student-athletes earned recognition on Honor Roll (3.0 GPA w/12 hrs. minimum) for Fall, 2008.

To summarize, 43% of McNeese student-athletes were on honor rolls during Fall, 2008.

Fall, 2008, squad GPA highest for women's golf (3.416); lowest for men's basketball (2.151).

19 McNeese student-athletes achieved a 4.0 GPA during Fall, 2008.

For Spring, 2009, there are 76 "at-risk" student-athletes. Study lab for these students began 1/25.

Initial checks (via e-mail) for grades and class attendance on 2/16. Responses will be forwarded to academic liaison coaches. Grade and attendance check sheets for all student-athletes to be distributed in March. Another check for "at-risk" student-athletes scheduled for April.

8. Travis Pickering, Coordinator of Student-Athlete Mentoring

Travis is mentoring 22 student-athletes this semester, meeting with each once a week for 15-20 minute sessions. The sessions focus on improving organizational skills, class attendance, and helping to determine majors.

Life skills workshops are being held during Spring, 2008. 61 student-athletes attended the most-recently held event. Three additional workshops are scheduled during this semester.

According to the NCAA, life skills education is a necessity for the welfare of the university student-athlete.

Travis is conducting student-athlete exit surveys. Summaries to be provided for review by this committee.

9. Randi Fischer – SAAC (Student-Athlete Advisory Committee)

Conflict with men's and women's track competition (Southland Conference Championship/Nacogdoches, TX) and final exams period has been resolved.

SAAC members will soon participate in another community service project.

Contraband scheduled to do feature story on a McNeese student-athlete.

10. Michele Martin – Chair's Report

Congratulatory letters have been sent by the AAC Chair to McNeese student-athletes, and their respective coaches, for being named to the SLC 2008 Fall Academic Roll.

A sample of a congratulatory letter (to head coach) is included.

Dr. Daboval also sends letters of recognition to university student-athletes for academic excellence.

Recognition of academic achievement by student-athletes is very important.

Reminder of web site for this committee: <http://www.mcneese.edu/aac>

11. Subcommittee Reports

Academic Integrity – Recommendations pending (4/22/09)
What are the best practices and procedures for coaches to track the academic and attendance records of their student-athletes during the semester? Frequent inquiries from some coaches are leading to confusion and concerns among teaching faculty. What is the preferable means for communication?

12. New Business

Class absence concerns – faculty initiated

Dr. Daboval will continue to evaluate university policies and procedures for sports schedules and approved absences.

Squad lists (subject to change w/travel or injuries), departure times, and competition dates were discussed as these related to class absences by student-athletes.

Can changes to squad lists (e.g. for travel dates) be posted electronically?
Can this be accomplished in a practical, timely manner?

Athletics administration will address appropriate departure times w/respective head coaches.

Attendance reporting by faculty is a very important step in this assessment process. Unfortunately, some faculty not reporting attendance.

Coaches need this information to effectively follow-up w/appropriate disciplinary action in cases where needed (student-athletes who are not regularly attending classes and/or performing below acceptable standards).

Coaches are conducting "spot attendance checks" for their respective squads. These are working fairly well.

What is the best system for following-up on class attendance? Can attendance data be directly input into the BANNERS system for quick accessibility? Are there any other electronic means (e.g. swipe card) to simplify the notification process?

The above issues are related to those which are to be investigated by the Academic Integrity subcommittee. This subcommittee will report at the 4/22/09 meeting.

What is the effect (e.g. attendance/missed class time) on student-athletes of the current Wednesday/Saturday SLC basketball schedule as opposed to the Thursday/Saturday set-up previously employed? Whatever the consequences, this is a conference scheduling decision.

13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. (President's Conference Room).