

McNeese State University Athletics Advisory Committee (AAC)
<http://www.mcneese.edu/aac>
Minutes for 4/9/08

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, Dye, Griffith, Hannie, Patterson, Pitre

Committee members absent: Burckel, Duhon, Simmons, Watts

Present: President Dr. Robert Hebert, Vice-Present/Provost Dr. Jeanne Daboval, Mr. Tommy McClelland, Ms. Bridget Martin

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda for 4/9/08 approved

3. Approval of Prior Minutes

Minutes of 2/13/08 meeting approved.

4. Materials Distributed at Meeting

Agenda (Michele Martin)

Compliance Report (Bridget Martin)

Make-up Examinations & Required Class Assignments (Derek Blakeley)

5. Mr. Tommy McClelland, Athletics Director

2008-09 Athletics budget has been approved by executive staff.

Assistant Athletics Director - External Affairs position to be advertised.

Ticket Office Assistant position is now available as Ms. Sabrina McCabe has accepted another position on campus.

Prospects are good to have the spring football game (4/24/08) played on the new turf at Cowboy Stadium.

Final stages of work on new Hodges Field House are being completed.

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

Report to MSU Athletics Advisory Committee distributed:

One secondary violation (Level I) reported in Women's Golf.

Three re-instatement requests have been submitted. One was denied; decisions pending on other two.

Committee on Infractions has requested additional information regarding our adherence to penalties imposed.

Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) met with Bridget on 3/19/08 for an NCAA rules education session.

Deb Kingrey, Academic Counselor for Student Athletes, reports 201 of 276 (73%) student-athletes are currently registered for Fall, 2008 semester. This is viewed as a positive indicator as well as an increase to prior academic terms. The third annual priority night registration for student-athletes was recently held.

7. Michele Martin - Chair's Report

Final outcome of NCAA athletics certification should be known soon. Dr. Hebert will receive written notification.

Congratulations to Ms. Jenny Clay (women's softball), who earned her third Player of the Week honor by being named the Louisiana Sports Writer's Association Hitter of the Week. Clay was named the NFCA's Co-Player of the Week and the Southland Conference's Hitter of the Week.

Implementation of improvement plans, as specified in our NCAA self-study, will be a major focus next academic year. The review and monitoring of scheduling of athletic events will also be studied.

8. Old Business – Revised Make-up Policy

Dr. Derek Blakeley distributed copies of the revised policy (as approved by Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Academic Advisory Council):

Make –Up Examinations and Required Class Assignments

The course syllabus provides expectations for class attendance and procedures for make-up exams or course work missed due to excused absences.

Students who miss examinations or required class assignments due to a planned absence for a University-approved event must present the approved University excused absence to the instructor prior to missing class. The instructor can allow the student to take an exam or submit assignments prior to the planned absence, or can allow the student to arrange to make up exams or assignments within two weeks after the absence. Lab assignments, oral presentations, artistic performance or similar assignment may require special consideration and extended time to arrange completion.

In cases of excused absences for illness or other circumstances deemed appropriate as an excused absence, faculty are encouraged to provide make-up exams soon after the student returns to class

Make-up exams must be complete prior to the beginning of the University final examination period. Faculty may not create make-up policies which result in punitive actions against students who miss exams or are absent due to University-excused absences or other excused absences.

The committee recommended that SAAC members and University coaches should be made aware of this new policy as soon as possible. This will also be a key issue for student-athlete academic advisors.

The committee agreed that student-athletes should be encouraged to take exams prior to absences so as to avoid falling further behind in their academic studies.

For the purpose of having grade slips signed, student-athletes should see their instructors prior to or after regular class time.

Effective communication between instructor and student-athlete is highly encouraged and is a key factor in the academic well-being of the student-athlete.

9. New Business

Mike Soileau, Department Head of H & HP, submitted concern to committee regarding varsity sports courses and administrative problems (e.g. instructor accountability, late submission of grades).

These courses may not be used to fulfill degree requirements, but do count toward semester credit hours (2) and enrollment status.

The viability and effects of possible elimination of such courses (e.g. funding) were discussed. President Hebert and Vice-President Daboval agreed that the issue requires further review.

Dr. Daboval reviewed for the committee the process of acknowledging McNeese student-athletes who have been named to the Southland Conference Honor Roll.

A new position under Scholarships and Testing will track student financial aid.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.