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

   **Committee members present:** Martin (Chair), Awagain, Blakeley, Bradley, Clark, Daboval, Duhon, Griffith, Fischer, Watts

   **Committee members absent:** Burckel, Hebert, Northam, Patterson, Pitre

   **Guest:** Allison Blevins

   **Presenters:** Bridget Martin, Deb Kingrey, Travis Pickering, Randi Fischer, Michele Martin, Allison Blevins, Greg Clark

2. **Approval of Agenda**
   Agenda for 2/10/10 approved.

3. **Approval of Prior Minutes**
   Minutes from 11/11/09 meeting previously distributed electronically and subsequently approved.

4. **Materials Distributed at Today's Meeting**
   Agenda for 2/10/10 (M. Martin)
   Report to MSU Athletics Advisory Committee (B. Martin)
   Adopted NCAA Legislation, 2009-10 (B. Martin)
   Athletics Advisory Committee, Academic Report (Kingrey)
   Excused Student Athlete Absence Form (Kingrey)
   Assessment & Approval of Academic Services for Student Athletes (Blevins)
   Academic Integrity Subcommittee Report on Competitive Schedules (Clark)

5. **Ms. Bridget Martin, Senior Woman Administrator/Compliance Officer**

   Mr. Tommy McClelland, Athletics Director, was unable to attend today’s meeting. Bridget Martin updated the committee in his absence.

   Construction of McNeese State’s new Jack Doland fieldhouse has begun. Personnel have now relocated to apartments in the Pine Haven section just northeast of the fieldhouse. Completion of the project is expected **by during** Spring/Summer, 2011.
McNeese is currently leading in the overall standings for the Southland Conference all-sports trophy (Commissioner’s Cup).

Details will be announced soon regarding the availability of tickets for the McNeese versus LSU football game in Tiger Stadium (10/16/10).

McNeese Athletics Department is also facing significant budget reductions.

In her report, Bridget noted that McNeese has reported one level I (football) and one level II secondary violation (women’s basketball).

Bridget reviewed recently adopted NCAA legislation which is effective immediately.

A recap of ongoing NCAA rules education being conducted on-campus was reviewed.

Bridget recently attended a meeting of the NCAA’s Recruiting and Athletics Personnel Issues Cabinet in Indianapolis. Attempts to revise the current recruiting model are underway.

6. **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.

   A total of 335 student-athletes are enrolled for Spring, 2010, semester.

   64 “at-risk” student-athletes are enrolled for Spring, 2010. Study lab began 1/31/10. Initial grade and attendance checks will be sent on 2/18/10. Responses will then be forwarded to academic liaison coaches.

   Grade and attendance checks for all student-athletes will be distributed to coaches during March, 2010.

   A more timely and efficient BANNER system will replace e-mail checks and notifications starting in Fall, 2010.

   An additional follow-up for “at-risk” student-athletes will be sent in April, 2010.
Priority night advising for student-athletes scheduled for 3/24 and 3/25/10. Summer registration is scheduled for 4/12/10. Fall registration follows one week later (4/19/10).

A “standardized” Excused Student Athlete Absence Form for all sports has been developed. Coaches will be able to access this document electronically. A campus-wide excused absence form will likely be developed following the same general format.

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

New officers have been elected for Spring, 2010, semester.

McNeese State’s athletics took part in the Southland Conference’s “Twelve Days before Christmas” - a community service project coordinated by SAAC. The Cowboys and Cowgirls partnered with KVHP FOX 29 to collect toys and raise money for the “Toys for Tots” organization. McNeese’s SAAC challenged all athletic teams to see which team could produce the most toys. A total of 441 toys were raised by the football, soccer, women’s golf, softball, tennis, volleyball, women’s basketball, track and field, and baseball teams. The women’s basketball team brought in the largest amount of toys and won the competition.

During spring semester, SAAC will be involved in charitable work for Haitian relief efforts, Special Olympics and Habitat for Humanity.

A career workshop on sports-related professions is also planned.

9. **Travis Pickering, Coordinator of Student-Athlete Mentoring**

Travis is spending a majority of his time “fine-tuning” the mentoring program for McNeese student-athletes. Currently, there are 20 mentors (faculty/staff) working 26 student-athletes.

Travis has also been working weekly with a half-dozen track student-athletes who require additional attention.

He is working with SAAC in helping coordinate workshops for our student-athletes.

A soda can pull-tabs project to help earn funds for the Haitian relief effort is planned for the McNeese campus.
Derek Blakeley, faculty member from the College of Liberal Arts and the History Department, will provide introductory information to the McNeese Faculty Senate on the student-athlete mentoring project.

10. Michele Martin – Chair’s Report

Chair Martin attended SLC winter meeting.

University of Texas, San Antonio, desires that its new football program should compete as an independent (rather than as a SLC member). Texas State would like to move up to Division I-A football status. University of Texas at Arlington has shown an interest in reinstituting its football program. Lamar will renew its football program (SLC schedule) in 2010.

Eastern Division SLC institutions (Texas) are generally in a better financial status than those of the Western Division (Louisiana and Arkansas). Thus, developing a conference-wide consensus on issues and priorities is becoming a more difficult task.

Chair Martin reported that the NCAA is placing a greater emphasis on fair and objective evaluations of academic services for student-athletes by those “outside” of athletics.

Assessment and Approval of Academic Services for Student-Athletes, as compiled by Ms. Allison Blevins, McNeese University Director of General and Basic Studies, was reviewed. Athletics Advisory Committee members are asked to review and forward any suggestions, comments, or recommendations to Chair Martin at least two weeks prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting (4/14/10). The report will be reviewed at the next meeting. Following revisions to the draft, the report will be sent to Ms. Stephanie Tarver, Dean of Enrollment Management, for final approval.

11. Subcommittee Reports

Academic Integrity:

Subcommittee chair Dr. Greg Clark distributed copies of Academic Integrity Standing Subcommittee Report, which reviewed competitive schedules for baseball, golf (men’s and women’s), softball, tennis, and track (men’s and women’s). Subcommittee made no specific recommendations, but stressed the importance of student-athletes working closely with their academic advisors in scheduling of courses so as to minimize missed class time.
12. **New Business**

Dr. Daboval informed the committee those recent changes to TOPS eligibility requirements could have an impact for student-athletes wishing to enroll in the accelerated sessions prior to the start of Summer school.

Dr. Daboval also mentioned that APR data is now published for all McNeese academic departments as a tool to raise awareness as to the importance of retention and graduation rates.

13. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, 2010, at 4:00 p.m. (President’s Conference Room).