

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•WORCESTER

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ATHLETICS COMMITTEE**

**Friday, September 5, 2008; 8:00 a.m.
Resource Options, Inc.
200 Highland Avenue
Needham, Massachusetts**

Committee Members Present: Chair Carlin; Trustees Koffman, Lawton and Thomas

Committee Members Absent: Vice Chair MacAfee; Trustees Braceras, Endich, Karam and Tocco

University Administration: Executive Vice President Julian; Alumni Director Goodhue; General Counsel Bench; Mr. Wright, Director of Public Education; Chancellor Holub; Mr. McCutcheon, Athletic Director, UMASS Amherst; Chancellor Motley; Mr. Titus, Vice Chancellor, Athletics, Recreation, Special Programs and Projects, UMASS Boston; Terry Condon, Senior Associate Athletics Director for Intercollegiate; Christopher Fitzgerald, Assistant Director of Athletics for Intramurals and Recreation; Ken McBryde, Manager of Athletic Facilities

Chair Carlin convened the meeting at 8:04 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Today's meeting and next week's meeting will provide an opportunity to hear from the Athletic Directors about recent activities and key initiatives facing each campus.

The first item on the agenda was the **Athletic Director's Report, UMASS Boston.** Chancellor Motley welcomed Chancellor Holub from the Amherst campus to his first meeting of the Committee and asked Vice Chancellor Titus to give the Report as he credited the Vice Chancellor for the success of the UMASS Boston athlete.

Mr. Titus, Vice Chancellor, Athletics, Recreation, Special Programs and Projects distributed a report highlighting several issues in a Power Point presentation. Some of the highlights included:

- Recreation: there has been an increase in activity in Intramurals and the Boston Sailing Program;
- Community Service: the Boston campus is in the forefront of serving the area neighborhoods including working together with BC High School. Over the past year 40,000 people have visited the UMASS Boston athletic facilities; there has also been strong activity with the senior citizens and the youth in the nearby Harbor Point community;

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- Fundraising and Development: Student Athletes have raised \$103,525 for team activities this year, an increase of \$40,000 from last year; the presence of the enhanced new web site (CSTV) in September through CBS sports working with members of the President's Office; we have recognized the accomplishments of Boston State Alums; a strong fundraising plan has been prepared.

- This weekend there will be a two day Leadership Conference held on Thompson Island with Student Leaders and Student Athletes including a talk by Chancellor Motley.

Vice Chancellor Titus then reported on Key Initiatives on the Boston Campus. The Baseball Field project is a part of the Master Planning process and will be funded in part by alums. Our baseball team continues to be successful; a new field will only enhance the popularity of the team. Currently many of the games take place in Waltham. The Boston campus has been in talks with BC and the Archives about the structure that will be similar to the Camden Yards structure in Baltimore.

Chair Carlin had a question about the funding for the fields. Chancellor Motley and Vice Chancellor Titus indicated that there will be fundraising efforts; there has been discussion about a partnership with the Corcoran Company who owns the nearby apartment complexes. Chair Carlin suggested we look into the percentages of that partnership. It was also noted that the Building Authority will be involved in every aspect of the project.

Trustee Thomas inquired about involving Major League Baseball in an attempt to attract inner city children to the sport. Vice Chancellor Titus indicated that the Boston campus is exploring all possible donors, including the Red Sox and Yawkey Foundation.

Vice Chancellor Titus then discussed the Wellness Center. There is a need to expand the Beacon Fitness Center and to add space for intramural and recreational programming. The student population is expected to grow from 13,500 to 17,500 by 2010 and that will take place more demands on the recreational spaces already at capacity. During the peak season we can have up to 400 people using the Fitness Center leading to some having difficulty finding equipment available.

The recommendations include: increase size of the Fitness Center, create indoor space for intramural and recreation participation and ease demands on the Clark Athletic Center. This would also benefit the Department of Health Services, creating new space for medical services and create a one stop location for all health related needs. Another beneficiary would be the College of Nursing and Health Sciences which would gain new classroom and office space.

At this time the goals are to create a new and larger space as an addition to the Clark Athletic Center to house the Fitness Center and convert the current Fitness Center into a gymnasium for intramural and recreational use; create a Wellness Center to address health and academic needs. A planning committee has been established and will meet early next week.

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There was a discussion about corporate sponsorships and involving student input including a possible student fee. Chair Carlin asked that we take care with additional student fees; the Amherst campus charged a Student Center fee for construction of a new recreation center for six years before there was action.

Chancellor Motley and Vice Chancellor Titus indicated they will bring plans back to the Committee.

Following a five minute break, the Committee reconvened; Chair Carlin introduced and welcomed Chancellor Holub to the Committee.

The next item on the agenda was the **Athletic Director's Report, UMASS Amherst**. Mr. McCutcheon presented an Overview of Recent Activities.

Mr. McCutcheon first discussed the success of the new lighting on the football field. The first game last week had 15,000 in attendance. The next two games will be televised and that would not be possible without the new lighting. Chair Carlin suggested the field be used for other activities and inquired about the extra revenue generated by the added attendance. Mr. McCutcheon reported that season tickets are up but did not have an exact revenue figure available.

Mr. McCutcheon provided more highlights including:

- Garber Field is in good shape; the softball grandstand is in and the tennis courts have opened;
- We have an exciting new basketball coach with Derek Kellogg; the energy level is up especially in Springfield where the Mayor is involved. Coach Kellogg is a Springfield native and former UMass Amherst player. Trustee Thomas offered his help with the Springfield area. There will be a year long celebration for the 100 seasons of the basketball team;
- There have been many successes with the athletic teams, including softball, Lacrosse, soccer and football. Chair Carlin inquired about the possibility of increasing scholarships for the men's soccer team; Mr. McCutcheon indicated that we must be mindful of Title IX. Crew is one of the areas where the number of female athletes can be increased.
- This year the budget finished in the black; there may be some future issues with energy and travel costs especially air travel;
- There will be more discussion regarding conference alignment and more television exposure;
- We are providing dual advising for student athletes: from athletic and academics;
- We advocate the NCAA Program that helps student athletes avoid bad situations;

Trustee Thomas has a question about the graduate rate among athletes; Mr. McCutcheon indicated that it is 4% higher than the student body's graduation rate and the Athletics Department pays close attention to the APR (academic progress rate). Often, a head-coaching change will have an impact on students staying on campus; Trustee Thomas stressed the need to copy the best practices of other schools and recruit students that will achieve academic success.

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Trustee Thomas inquired about a new scoreboard for the football field, something the campus has been working on. The current board is eleven years old; because of the high costs a new board would not include the video feature.

Mr. McCutcheon reported that the Atlantic-10 has a new Commissioner, Bernadette V. McGlade from the Atlantic Coast Conference and mentioned that we are not getting the amount of exposure they had hoped for from their CBS College sport relationship.

The Committee discussed a future meeting to hear a report on Campus Compliance, a very important issue and one that has been met with great success. A meeting will be set up in the near future.

Mr. McCutcheon then reported on Key Initiatives on the Amherst Campus including the Champion Center that has been discussed in length, previously. This Center would impact the future of Amherst athletics including conference alignments. It would bring the athletic programs together and include a UMass Amherst Athletics Hall of Fame which would be a tourist attraction. The Center will need corporate and private support and state funds. There is currently an active campaign to raise money.

There is also a need for a proper facility for the Women's Rowing Team. Currently we are using a community boat house. There was a brief discussion about this being a Title 9 initiative that could generate state funds.

Chair Carlin wrapped up the meeting with one last issue: the status and future of the Boyden Building. Mr. McCutcheon stated that the building houses the pool and it would have been a great financial cost to add a pool to the Recreation Center. It also houses basketball courts and office space. It is a long term challenge and a possible face lift could be the answer.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Barbara F. DeVico
Secretary to the Board of Trustees