

**Board of Regents**

**Intercollegiate Athletics Workgroup**

**March 27, 2013**

**Minutes of the meeting:**

**Attendance: Regents McMillen (chair), Gonzales, Gossett, Kinkopf and USM staff Chancellor Kirwan, Doyle, Boughman, Lee, Page, Muntz, West, and Mosca. For the first agenda item, the workgroup also invited in UMCP Athletic Director Kevin Anderson, Deputy Athletic Director Kelly Mehrtens, UMCP university legal advisor Terry Roach and UMCP chief of staff Michelle Eastman.**

1. **Review of coaches and athletic directors compensation arrangements – discussion and review of UMCP information – discussion with UMCP Athletic Director Kevin Anderson and Assistant Athletic Director Kelly Mehrtens**

**Chair McMillen shared with the workgroup the national context for athletic department contracts and their role in student-athlete academic achievement. The Chair explained the notion behind what was described as the ‘Connecticut rule’, a contract provision that prohibits other incentive compensation where student-athlete academic performance does not meet certain prescribed standards.**

**The chair also noted the lack of academic performance incentives in the men’s basketball assistant coaches contracts, and pointed out that in a review of the contracts he observed a lack of explicit termination provisions that would enable the institution to terminate assistant coaches for lack of adequate academic progress.**

**A document of more than 170 pages of contract terms for UMCP coaches and athletic directors was shared with the work group. The submitted material included incentive compensation arrangement info on more than 50 different coaches and athletic directors.**

**UMCP Athletic Director Kevin Anderson and Deputy Athletic Director Kelly Mehrtens discussed the philosophical approach of the current athletic administration towards using contracts as a mechanism for incentivizing athletics department personnel towards student-athlete academic performance. Mehrtens pointed out the effort associated with compiling such a comprehensive information request, and an exchange with the work group focused on the acceptability of restricting the request to the head coaches of the 3 major revenue sports (mens basketball and football, womens basketball) and any other sport that experiences poor academic performance, and the athletic director.**

**Regent Gossett highlighted the importance of the President’s role in setting expectations for the athletic department including student-athlete academic performance.**

**Athletic Director Anderson pointed out that the NCAA is also establishing formal and fixed thresholds for student-athlete academic performance that will also provide for sanctions and penalties.**

1. **Review of AY 12-13 academic performance**

**UMCP**

**Towson University
UMES**

**Coppin State University**

**UMBC**

**USM Office Director of Institutional Research Chad Muntz reviewed academic progress information for each of the five institutions, highlighting those sports where continued review and monitoring are appropriate. Due to the privacy concerns and legal sensitivities of the academic progress material, no materials were distributed to be retained by the workgroup.**

1. **Status of Towson University review and assessment of intercollegiate athletics**

**An update on the review and assessment of intercollegiate athletics at Towson was shared with the workgroup by Chancellor Kirwan.**

1. **Board of Regents Intercollegiate Athletics Workgroup / standing committee referral and reporting mechanism**

**A draft proposal was shared with the workgroup. Regent Gonzales pointed out the oversight of intercollegiate athletics in the By-laws. The proposal was tabled to incorporate and address the oversight language in the By-laws.**

1. **Future Board of Regents Intercollegiate Athletics workgroup focus and planning (need for new Board of Regents policy, feedback or guidance to institutions, or other approaches to improving aspects of intercollegiate athletics)**

**Chair McMillen discussed the issue of Board approval requirements for large dollar-value financial decisions, such as conference moves by institutions, and that a separate discussion on the issue is planned for the full Board at a future meeting. The workgroup intends to continue to consider improvements in Board oversight of intercollegiate athletics programs.**