Faculty Senate Athletic Committee Minutes, February 2, 2010

Chair Scott Unruh officially called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Members in attendance were Jon McBride, Kyle Luthans, Jane Strawhecker, Janet Steele, and Cliff Summar. Jaime Lundgren, Ken Messersmith, Kevin Tarango, and Nita Unruh were absent.

Scott began the meeting by updating the members on the Student-Athlete Satisfaction survey. The survey has been moved to the Qualtrics® system and we should be able to gather data this spring. We currently don’t have a large enough sample size and have not been able to follow a group of student-athletes from freshman-senior year to analyze the results. Idea were discussed to improve response rate, including having the survey sent by someone on the FS Athletic Committee who is not a member of the athletic department or by having a member of the committee discuss the importance of the survey briefly at a team practice. Scott said several student-athletes are still under the impression answers could be traced back to them and there could be repercussions. Cliff asked if the survey is for in-house use only and Jon said that it was (for now, at least).

Scott said that he, Jon, and Jaime attended the NCAA Convention in Atlanta last month. The Division II “Life in the Balance” legislation passed easily (Scott likened the lobbying for the legislation to a full court press). Jon said UNK voted against the legislation for two main reasons: in his (and Chancellor Kristensen’s) opinion life at division II institutions for student-athletes is already in balance; and the packaging of the legislation made voting difficult. Voting by RMAC institutions was mixed. Jon questioned how cutting one competition from the basketball schedule, for example, was going to help a student-athlete participate in more campus activities. Scott mentioned that the current legislation does not address off-season activities but phase II of the legislation will. Jon said the measure will save UNK some money as pre-season workouts are pushed back a week in the fall. (At this time Rich Brodersen interrupted the meeting to get some calibration weights for a shot put.) Scott also mentioned there will be a Fall Sports Festival in Louisville this year. Jon said the festival actually extends the championships because the athletes must attend the entire festival and may have to arrive several days prior to their competition. Scott said the best seminar he attended at the convention was about gambling on sports by college students. The speaker said 80% of student-athletes wager on sports and likened the problem to drug and alcohol abuse, but colleges rarely address the gambling. Cliff asked if it would be possible to invite the speaker to UNK and Scott said he would look into it.

The last item on the agenda was an update on the recommendations from the advisory group regarding conference affiliation. Jon said many are interested in what UNK may or may not do with regard to conference affiliation. The bottom line is we cannot increase our travel budget, and others in the RMAC have similar issues. With enough members, the Northern Sun Conference might consider east and west divisions. The Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) has many schools that KSC competed against, and renewing contests against those schools might increase interest and attendance. Joining the MIAA, however, would increase other costs (such as scholarships and salaries) because that conference has the maximum funding level allowable in division II athletics.

The meeting concluded at 1:50 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for 1:00 pm Tuesday, March 2 in the Zikmund room (if it isn’t is use as it was today and we ended up in Scott’s office area).

Minutes submitted by Janet Steele.