Faculty Senate Athletic Committee Minutes, October 6, 2009

Faculty Senate representative Karen Bostic-Frederick read the mission to the committee, followed by nominations for chair and secretary. Scott Unruh and Janet Steele were unanimously re-elected as chair and secretary, respectively.

Chair Scott Unruh officially called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Members in attendance were Jon McBride, Ken Messersmith, Pat Seaton, Janet Steele, Jane Strawhecker, Cliff Summar, Kevin Tarango (Graduate Asstant/Athletic Compliance), and Nita Unruh. Jaime Lundgren (maternity leave) and Kyle Luthans (class obligation) were absent.

The first order business was to examine the student attendance policy as requested by Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Charlie Bicak. The committee discussed several problems faced by student-athletes, including required classes that meet only once a week that may be missed multiple times in a semester, individual instructor policies regarding dropped quizzes or exams, and verification of absences. After much discussion the committee decided to ask SVCAA Bicak to provide a list to all faculty of official university groups that would be covered by the student attendance policy.

UNK has adopted Qualtrics as its survey instrument, so the student-athletic satisfaction survey must be moved from Opinio before it can be sent out. It is important to get the survey out to freshmen as their questions are primarily about expectations while sophomores, juniors, and seniors should complete the survey near the end of their season. Nita suggested that participation in the survey might be improved if it were clear that the survey does not originate with the athletic department and results of the survey will not be shared with coaches.

Scott said that he will be attending the NCAA meeting this coming January.

Jon passed out information concerning NCAA Division II’s “Life in the Balance” proposal that has been endorsed by the management council and presidents. In summary, this proposal shortens the season for several sports and reduces the maximum number of contests as well as prohibits all practices and contests for a week in December. Jon said this will be voted on at the convention in January, and that each institution and each conference gets one vote. Jon also handed out editorials concerning the proposal from two athletic directors, one of which is from the RMAC (Kelly Higgins from Fort Lewis). Reducing the number of contests can be viewed as increasing the relative number of practices and reducing revenue.

Jon said a consultant study to explore present and future athletic spending and conference affiliation is winding down. He should be able to give a more complete report in November. In addition, Jon discussed the possibility of introducing legislation to the NCAA concerning the eligibility of student-athletes who attend professional programs on campus but are not technically enrolled at that campus (such as nursing students at Kearney). Currently those student-athletes can continue to participate in athletics but a waiver must be obtained.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for 1:00 pm Tuesday, November 3 in the Zikmund room.

Minutes submitted by Janet Steele.