

***NCAA Division I Reclassification
Institutional Performance Plan
Governance and Commitment to Rules Compliance
Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes***

Monday, April 27, 2015/Wannalancit Business Center Room 305

I. Call to order

Subcommittee chair Lauren Turner called to order the regular meeting of the Subcommittee. The following persons were present: Tricia Ciampa, Michael Rutherford, Michelle Bazin, Lauren Dufresne, Sandra Niedergall, Shannon Hlebichuk, Michael Carter, Joseph Hartman, Christine Lewis, Tracy Ellis-Ward, Donald Pierson, Frank Talty, Maria Sheehy, Christine Gillette

As this was the first full meeting of the subcommittee, Lauren Turner invited members to introduce themselves. Each member did so and shared their interest in UMass Lowell Athletics and commitment to the successful transition to Division I. The subcommittee includes representatives of many areas of the university, including Academic Affairs, Human Resources, Athletics, Institutional Research and University Relations.

Don Pierson discussed the planned August 26 visit by NCAA liaison Mira Zimmerman. All members of the subcommittee were asked to hold that date on their calendars as each subcommittee and the IPP steering committee will meet with Ms. Zimmerman while she is on campus.

II. New business

- a) **Scope of Responsibilities of Committee:** Lauren Turner noted that as the subcommittee prepares for the IPP process, all members will need to have a good sense of our role. She referred the subcommittee to the materials that were sent to the group earlier via e-mail, which includes two key standards for our work. Tracy Ellis-Ward stated that during her visit, Mira Zimmerman will thoroughly outline the subcommittee's responsibilities.
- b) **Overview of Timeline and Work Plan:** Don Pierson stated that the Division I transition takes four years. The IPP steering committee and subcommittees will do their work over three years. The subcommittees will base their work on the NCAA's 2015-2016 standards, which will be available soon. Lauren Turner stated that there are some

excellent plans that have been developed by other institutions that have completed the IPP process. Those could serve as models for UMass Lowell's. The 2015-2016 academic year will be the busiest for the subcommittee, as the full report from the university is due to the NCAA on May 15, 2016, Turner noted. Based on this deadline, she said, the subcommittee will need to determine its timeline to complete its portion of the plan. She said our section should be completed by mid-April.

- c) **Context and Athletic Landscape:** Lauren Turner referred the group to the article provided during the initial meeting in November of all of the IPP from the Marquette Sports Law Review, "A Brief History of the National Collegiate Athletics Association's Role in Regulating Intercollegiate Athletics." Michael Rutherford briefed the group on the contents of the article, which offers context on the role of the subcommittee by providing details on the origins of the NCAA as well as the collegiate athletics landscape over the years since. Back in the early 1900s, deaths and serious injuries were occurring among college athletes, as well as other issues, which led to the creation of the NCAA in 1910. He noted that the major issues facing athletics and institutions at the time – pressure to win, commercialization and safety – are the same as those facing today's colleges and universities. Michael Rutherford also noted that a major issue facing athletics is Title IX. Lauren Turner stated that there is much associated with Title IX going on in higher education, not just related to gender equity but also providing a safe environment. Tracy Ellis-Ward referenced another article provided to the group at the fall meeting, "Principles and Model for New Governance Structure," as being of particular interest to the subcommittee as it relates to its work. She stated that the group may receive other articles over the summer that will offer additional context to inform them before the subcommittee's work starts in earnest this fall.
- d) **Personnel changes:** Lauren Turner noted that Tracy Ellis-Ward is leaving UMass Lowell as of early May for a position with the Big East conference and thanked her for all of her work to date on UMass Lowell's Division I transition. Lauren Turner stated that Sandra Niedergall, who recently joined Athletics in a different role, will succeed Tracy Ellis-Ward.
- e) **Schedule of Meetings 2015-2016:** Lauren Turner stated that this fall, the subcommittee will need to have a regular schedule of meetings, most likely every other week. The group will be informally polled to provide their availability for the fall semester. Don Pierson stated that a second student member should be added to the subcommittee to ensure there is student-athlete input throughout the process. Lauren Turner agreed that another student should be selected to join the subcommittee.
- f) **Committee Work:** Lauren Turner and other members of the group discussed means that could be used to share information. Most likely, Dropbox or a similar product will be used to store and share materials developed by the subcommittee.

III. Adjournment

Lauren Turner adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by: Christine Gillette, recorder, Institutional Compliance and Governance Subcommittee

Minutes approved by