

Minutes of the Meeting of the Faculty Board on Athletics

April 17, 2024

200 Main Building, 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Members Present: Patricia Bellia (Chair), Colin Barr, Pete Bevacqua, Jaimie Bleck, Annie Coleman, Darrin Davis, Ann Firth, Rev. Gerry Olinger, C.S.C., Randy Kozel, Mark McCready, Cara Ocobock, Jamal Wilson, Katie Wowak

Members Excused: Patrick Holmes

Athletics Liaisons: Heidi Uebelhor (Athletics Compliance), Jen Vining-Smith (GLD Center)

Guests: Rev. Robert Dowd C.S.C. (incoming University President), Salima Rockwell, Head Volleyball Coach

1. Opening Prayer

Professor Bellia called the meeting to order and invited Professor Katie Wowak to offer the opening prayer.

2. Minutes of Meeting February 28, 2024

The Board approved the minutes of February 28, 2024, with one technical correction.

3. Meeting with Rev. Robert Dowd, C.S.C. (incoming University President)

Professor Bellia welcomed Father Dowd and excused herself from this portion of the meeting.

Father Dowd expressed his sincere thanks to the Board for its work, and stated that it is important to the mission and integrity of the University. He also indicated that Professor Bellia's term as Chair is coming to an end this summer, and that he wanted to give the Board members an opportunity to share any thoughts and opinions on the possibility of another term with Professor Bellia as Chair. Several Board members shared their thoughts with Father Dowd, who thanked them and also invited members to email him if that was preferable.

4. Chair's Announcements

Professor Bellia announced the following schedule changes she had approved since the previous meeting:

○ Travel/Weather:

- Baseball ACC game against Miami time change (from 4:30 pm to 3:30pm) due to weather
- Softball ACC games against NC State time change due to weather

- Softball game against Central Michigan date change (3/26 to 4/23) due to weather
- Baseball game against Bowling Green time change (4:30pm to 6pm) due to weather
- Softball game against Michigan (originally 4/3) rescheduled to 5/1 at 7pm due to weather
- Baseball requested time change for game against Valparaiso due to weather
- **Corrections/Schedule Changes:**
 - Indoor T&F updated schedule with earlier dismissal for three throwers because of practice schedule at competition venue
 - Fencing requested early departure time for NCAA regionals in order to make weapons check
 - Women's Tennis added dual match with Xavier
 - Women's Lacrosse game against Liberty moved from 2pm to 1pm
 - Women's Lacrosse game against Brown moved from 4pm to 5pm
 - Women's Soccer requested to move spring game against Michigan State from 4/3/24 to 3/27/24
 - Outdoor T&F requested to add additional meet, GVSU Early Bird
 - Softball added home game against Western Michigan
- **Individual Students:**
 - Men's Golf added a Saint Patrick's Day event for two students
 - Class miss (Tuesday-Thursday) for Kevin Sanchez to compete in World Cross Country Championships in Belgrade, Serbia
 - Dismissal time to include the full day (previously half day) for Jadin O'Brien to participate in Mt SAC relays
 - Early dismissal request for Baseball student manager to travel to competition against Virginia Tech
- **Post-Season (ACC, Big Ten, and NCAA)**
 - Hockey travel to Big Ten tournament at Michigan
 - Fencing travel to NCAA Championship
 - Men's Swimming and Diving travel to NCAA Championship
 - Women's Swimming and Diving travel to NCAA Championship
 - Women's Basketball to host first and second rounds of NCAA
 - Women's Basketball and Cheer travel to NCAA Regional competition
 - Men's Tennis travel to ACC Championship
 - Women's Tennis travel to ACC Championship
 - Men's Golf travel to ACC Championship
 - Women's Golf to ACC Championships

5. **Volleyball Class Miss Request (Salima Rockwell, Head Volleyball Coach)**

Coach Rockwell thanked the group for all the support that they provide to the Athletics Department and emphasized her commitment to supporting the academic work of her student-athletes at the highest level. Coach Rockwell shared some of the challenges building the 2024 fall schedule, including the newly expanded ACC, previous scheduling commitments, a weekday away game against Notre Dame's ACC travel partner (Louisville), and facilities limitations

connected to Father Dowd's inauguration. These challenges left volleyball in a situation where students would have to miss six classes in the MWF sequence. Members discussed the profile of the volleyball team, the academic support team members receive, and the possible impact of the absences.

After Coach Rockwell's departure and a brief discussion, Professor Barr moved that the Board approve the schedule, and Professor Kozel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

6. Kanaley Awards (Randy Kozel, Chair, Academic Integrity Subcommittee)

Professor Kozel shared that the Academic Integrity subcommittee had met the previous week to discuss the Kanaley Award nominees. The Kanaley Award is given to students who are most exemplary as students, athletes, and leaders. There are typically multiple winners each year. The subcommittee found that six candidates were the strongest, but also identified four other extremely worthy candidates. After its meeting, the subcommittee sought additional input from Mr. Holmes, who was not able to join the subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee also solicited information about NCAA performances that occurred between the submission of the nomination forms and the meeting, and about students who might be returning for an additional year. Professor Bellia summarized the updated information. Professor Kozel noted that the nominations from the coaches keep getting better, which makes the subcommittee's job harder.

After lengthy discussion, the Board voted to approve a group of nine candidates, including the original six the subcommittee had identified, and three others. The Kanaley Award winners were: Madison Ahern (women's lacrosse), Ryan Bischel (hockey), Patrick Burns (men's soccer), Patrick Dority (men's fencing), Page Freeman (women's tennis), Eva Gaetano (women's soccer), Patrick Kavanagh (men's lacrosse), and Olivia Markezich (track and field). These winners will be recognized at the Athletics Department awards show on May 1.

7. Proposed NCAA NIL/Transfer Legislation (Heidi Uebelhor)

Ms. Uebelhor shared that the NCAA Council is currently meeting and voting on emergency legislation, which includes proposed modifications to the transfer rules and the NIL legislation. In short, because of several legal challenges, the modified transfer legislation will allow unlimited transfers. If a student-athlete leaves his or her institution in good academic standing, and satisfies progress toward degree standards at the new institution, he or she will be able to transfer and be immediately eligible. Ms. Uebelhor noted that the sport-specific transfer windows are still in place.

Ms. Uebelhor also explained that the NCAA Council adopted NIL legislation that allows institutions to provide some additional NIL services and that creates a voluntary agent registry. Finally, Ms. Uebelhor shared that tomorrow the Council will consider additional adjustments to NIL, including a proposal to allow institutions to bring NIL in-house (short of compensating student-athletes), to hire a third party to assist with NIL, and (in some cases) to require disclosures of NIL earnings over \$600.

Mr. Bevacqua shared some additional information about what is currently happening in this space, and why the NCAA is motivated to change the rules in this manner. Finally, Mr. Bevacqua stated that Notre Dame is trying to be aggressive and strategic, without losing the mission of why we bring students here.

8. Adjournment

Professor Bellia adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.