

Advisory Committee on Athletics (ACA)

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Minutes of the Meeting

These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Campus Delegation; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represents the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Delegation, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

PRESENT: Melissa Avery (chair), Joel Maturi, Duane Nelson, Maria Sera, Doug Hartmann, Linda Brady, Jonathan Loveall, Rich Weinberg, Mark Nelson, Linda Mona, J.T. Bruett, Katie Meyer, Suzannah Mork, Laurie McLaughlin, Steven McCarthy, and Douglas Olson

REGRETS: Jerry Noyce and Perry Leo

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Kathleen O'Brien (vice president, University Services), Brian Swanson (Stadium Project Manager)

Professor Melissa Avery, chair, called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and asked each person to introduce him or herself.

The first item of business was an update on the TCF Bank Stadium by Kathleen O'Brien, vice president, University Services and Brian Swanson, stadium project manager. The presentation covered the following salient points:

- History of the stadium

- Slides presented to the Board of Regents regarding the planning and construction, including the budget, which is estimated at a total cost of \$248.7 million
- Sustainability and importance of the community
- The stadium will have a traditional collegiate “look and feel”
- Suitable for recreational sports and soccer as well as a home for the marching band
- 50,000 capacity with an open-air horseshoe shaped bowl
- President has appointed Joel Maturi and Ms. O’Brien as co-chairs the construction effort
- Parking considerations – most surface lots will not be impacted – parking will need to be not only ample, but affordable
- Information about parking will be made available on a website
- When asked a question about tailgating, Ms. O’Brien said that she is doing research as to what other institutions are doing and will be developing a plan. She anticipates it to be completed in 2008 and she will consult with groups at that time.
- Traffic issues will be dealt with through a variety of technologies
- Students will have a “benefit” package with respect to tickets

Professor Avery thanked VP O’Brien and Mr. Swanson for their very informative presentation.

Next, Professor Avery directed members’ attention to the “handbook” and began walking through the committee and subcommittee charges. Maria Sera agreed to chair the Equity Subcommittee; Doug Hartmann, Conference Issues; Laurie McLaughlin, Student-Welfare; Perry Leo, FAOCIA, will chair the Campus and Community Relations Subcommittee. Vickie Courtney, University Senate Office, gave an overview of the committee’s policies and pointed out that members would be asked to serve on search committees and/or other working groups as the opportunities arose.

Joel Maturi, Athletics Director, reported on the following:

- Importance of building community

- His efforts on the stadium, funding and endowed scholarships
- He emphasized the concept of athletics being the “Window to the University”
- His staff (he distributed an organizational chart)
- Compliments to the MAC

Professors Rich Weinberg and Linda Brady, Faculty Reps, reported on the following:

- Faculty Rep appointments and areas of responsibilities
- Big Ten and Fox TV – regarding the 66 hours of non-athletic related programming – VP Linda Thrane, University Relations and Tom Wistrick, associate athletics director, will be coordinating this effort.

J.T. Bruett, Compliance Office, provided an update on the Caring Bridge for Frank Kara.

Mark Nelson, director of MAC, reminded members about the annual open house and hoped everyone would attend. He also gave kudos to Joel Maturi.

Hearing no further business, Professor Avery adjourned the meeting.

Vickie Courtney

University Senate Office