

Minutes
University of Kentucky Athletic Association
Board of Directors Meeting
18th Floor Patterson Office Tower
November 13, 2009
2:00 p.m.

Meeting Opened and Roll Call

President Lee Todd called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. The following members of the Board were present: Charles Arnold, Frank Butler, Charles Cassis, Dermontti Dawson, Luther Deaton, Joseph Fink, Carol Martin “Bill” Gatton, Victor Hazard, Scott Kelley, S. T. Roach, Frank Shoop, Lee Todd, and Lionel Williamson. Absent from the meeting were Victoria Dunlap, Tom Hammond, Kathi Kern, Kumble Subbaswamy, and Bruce Walcott. A quorum was present.

Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart, members of his staff, and members of the various news media were also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

President Todd said that the May 11, 2009 Minutes had been circulated and asked for any questions or changes to the Minutes. Mr. Deaton made a motion that the Minutes be approved. Mr. Shoop seconded the motion, and it carried without dissent.

President’s Report

President Todd reported that an ESPN crew was on campus recently to interview him and others for the SEC Weekly, an ESPN/SEC television project. The interview is part of the ESPN contract package and should be a good reflection for the University of Kentucky.

He commented about the volleyball team and their impressive record, noting that five members of the team were selected to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District IV team.

President Todd informed the Board that UK’s women’s soccer senior Julie Hull has been named to the Southeastern Conference Good Works team. Ms. Hull has been active in the Lexington community as a Salvation Army worker. She participated in bowling with Special Olympics and visited children with cancer at the Children’s Hospital. She has been active in clinics for local soccer players in the community. Also, Ms. Hull was named a first team ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District performer and is in the running for Academic All-American.

President Todd reported that there have been some articles both locally and nationally about UK’s athletic program. UK’s Department of Athletics is as transparent as any in the country. A recent NCAA study showed that only 25 of the member university athletic departments actually “made” money, and UK is one of those. He noted that an overhead assessment is done on the Department of Athletics every year and explained that the department is charged for services provided by the university. This year’s budgeted amount of the assessment fee is approximately \$1.7 million.

He reported that the Department of Athletics also pays the tuition fees of all student-athletes on scholarships and noted that most of them are out-of-state students. This amounts to approximately \$9 million in General Fund revenue for the university. He pointed out that UK gets some of its best academic students because of athletic scholarships.

President Todd said that the Department of Athletics directly contributes from its externally generated revenue about \$1.6 million annually to the university's general scholarship fund. He mentioned some of the scholarships and talked about the high quality of recruiting at the university. The freshman class recruited this year is the best the university has ever had. The university also had a record African-American enrollment this year, and the African-American faculty number is up 11 over last year. The money the Department of Athletics provides to academics is remarkable.

President Todd informed the Board of a recent announcement about a new \$18.6 million Davis Marksbury Building to be built on campus. It will be part of the "Digital Village" located along Rose and Maxwell streets. He said the project would have been much more expensive if the Department of Athletics had not paid to run utilities on that side of campus when the Joe Craft Center was built. He noted that athletics paid to run the utilities on that side of campus with private funds.

President Todd concluded his report by saying that Mitch Barnhart, Rob Mullens, and their staff have greatly supported academics, research, and outreach missions of the university. He is very pleased with their good work.

Athletics Director's Report

Mr. Barnhart provided some highlights of the various programs in athletics. He reiterated President Todd's remarks about the volleyball team doing remarkably well. The team is 24 and 2 with one loss in the league. It has an opportunity to win the conference championship for probably the first time and take it away from the University of Florida. He noted that Coach Craig Skinner has done a remarkable job.

Mr. Barnhart talked about the football program and the high expectations for the program to move precisely up the ladder. He quoted some statistics for other university football programs and talked about the competitive world of football. He noted that UK has an opportunity to participate in postseason play and said he is thankful and appreciative for the way Coach Rich Brooks leads the program and for what he does for Kentucky.

Mr. Barnhart commented about the Men's Soccer team and said they would compete in the semi-finals of the Conference USA Tournament for the tournament championship. He said that he is proud of what Coach Ian Collins has done this season with the program.

Mr. Barnhart reported that Coach Jon Lipsitz has finished his first year coaching the UK Women's Soccer team. The team did not make postseason play; however, Coach Lipsitz is recruiting very well and will be fine going forward.

Mr. Barnhart commented briefly about the Cross Country team, the outstanding Rifle team, the Women's Basketball team, the Men's Basketball team, and the recent signing day for athletics.

He reported that UK had a good signing day and is getting a lot of the top student-athletes in the country. These top athletes are the difference makers as the university competes and tries to get better in a very difficult league. Recruiting the top athletes is progress and important to the program. He noted that high school coaches have been taken out of the recruiting process of all sports but football and talked about the very complicated recruiting process.

Mr. Barnhart reported that the football and basketball programs make money for the Department of Athletics, and that revenue allows the other 20 sports to compete and do well. He thanked Rob Mullens, Lisa Peterson, and their staff for the outstanding job they do to make sure the department is in good financial shape.

Mr. Barnhart talked about the K Fund program. He said Mark Coyle and the K Fund staff do a phenomenal job of raising money and creating new ways to get people excited. He mentioned a new event this year called the tip-off party for basketball held at Rupp Arena. The event was another way to show people what it means to be a part of Kentucky basketball and athletics.

Mr. Barnhart said the APR program has been around for six years and noted that the figures are out from last spring. He explained how the program tracks a student's progress toward a degree. He said the coaches do a nice job of recruiting students who want to make progress at Kentucky, who want to get a degree, and who can compete for the university. The coaches also do a good job working with the Compliance Office to make sure the university does not lose scholarship opportunities or postseason play.

Mr. Barnhart thanked John Cody Birdwell, Director of Bands, and the band members for the improvement of the band and the exciting atmosphere they add to the ballgames. He noted that the Department of Athletics provided some new uniforms and instruments which increased the number of students in the band.

Mr. Barnhart introduced Sandra Bell, Senior Associate Athletics Director for Compliance, who has been employed at the university for 21 years, and asked her to give a snapshot of the Compliance Office.

Ms. Bell distributed literature about the Compliance Office. She thanked President Todd and Mr. Barnhart for allowing her to do her job and to do it right. She said that her job is very situational. She talked about the responsibilities of her position and said that she provides oversight of compliance, academics, and sports medicine; handles the administration of athletic compliance; interprets NCAA and SEC rules, serves as liaison between President Todd and Mitch Barnhart on NCAA and SEC proposed legislation; and investigates major and secondary violations. She gave an overview of the work that takes place in the Compliance Office, including the various NCAA requirements and rules, and talked about the interaction and issues with student-athletes as well as the challenges of the office.

Ms. Bell introduced the following members of her staff, and they talked about the duties and responsibilities of their positions on a daily basis:

John Butler – Assistant Athletics Director of Compliance
Heather McAtee – Director of Compliance
Katie Hardie – Compliance Coordinator

Following their presentations, Ms. Bell and her staff entertained questions from the Board. President Todd praised Ms. Bell and her staff for the good job they do for the university.

Meeting Adjourned

The Athletic Association Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara W. Jones
Secretary