



THE UNIVERSITY *of* NEW ORLEANS

STAFF COUNCIL

#

Thursday, October 18, 2019
UC 208 at 10:00am

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- I. Call to Order: 10:04 A.M. by Kassie Thibodeaux, Staff Council President
- II. Approval of Minutes: Kassie Thibodeaux stated that the minutes for the September minutes would be posted shortly.
- III. Executive Committee Reports
 - a. President - Kassie Thibodeaux: no report
 - b. Vice-President: vacant
 - c. Treasurer: vacant. K. Thibodeaux reported:
 - Credit Union Balance - \$5.42
 - General Fund - \$2750.00
 - Foundation spending balance - \$356.34
 - d. Recording Secretary: no report.
 - e. Corresponding Secretary: vacant
- IV. Committee Reports
 - a. Membership/Elections Committee: no report
 - b. Staff Concerns Committee: No new concerns.
 - c. Events Committee: no report
 - d. Awards Committee: no report
- V. New Business – No report
- VI. Guest Speaker – Tim Duncan, new Director of Athletics
Acknowledged staff attending: Megan Steinmetz (Marketing & Ticketing Operations Manager); Michelle Nielson (Administrative Services Coordinator); Renee Ronquillo (Assistant Athletic Director for Development); and, Dena Freeman-Patton (Deputy Athletic Director/COO).

Mr. Duncan spoke of why he chose to come work at UNO. He was a student athlete in Memphis, sister-city of New Orleans, and played in Lakefront Arena. He was impressed by the city and the university. He appreciates that President Nicklow was a former student athlete, so can

relate to Athletics as they are integrated, not more important than the rest of the university, but outwardly-facing which gives them and UNO unique opportunities.

Mr. Duncan spoke of several initiatives in Athletics. When he was first hired, he did “100 Meetings in 100 Days” so that he could meet with, learn from and communicate with UNO faculty, staff and students. Athletics needs help from UNO faculty and staff, he says. There are over 48,000 alums in the city. UNO is not considered the first option for education, athletics and entertainment. Outreach is needed.

Athletics is doing more to let students, faculty and staff understand when and where events take place. They are focusing on doing more storytelling in their social media, as this gets positive reviews. (There was a recent fun twitter war with Tulane. #NolasTeam) A video featuring three Hispanic athletes was done for Hispanic month. And a similar video highlighting NCAA diversity and inclusion would be done next week.

There has been more focus on community service as a way to immerse UNO and Athletics into the community, and make them more visible. There were 2,400 hours of community service devoted last year, and 3,000 so far this year. Athletics would be present at the Gentilly Fest next week, and they have helped with food banks, homeless, and read to schools.

November 12 is Education Day. They are moving the women’s basketball game from the evening to earlier in the day, and 500 school students will be attending. Prior to the game, there will be fun educational activities. Mr. Duncan sees opportunities like these as a way to not only increase UNO visibility to the community, but for young students to see college in general as an option.

Athletics is changing the game format, to provide more entertainment – having a host, the Pep Band, as well as high school bands, and a DJ.

As for academics: student athletes average a 3.1 GPA, with 28 athletes with a 4.0 GPA. Twenty-six athletes are graduating this fall, and many teams have a 100% graduation rate.

A staff member raised the concern that local students were overlooked in recruitment. Mr. Duncan emphasized that academics comes first, but if the scores/gpa were close, local students get priority.

Athletics is working to become more competitive as well in recruitment, to be somewhere students would like to come, with building better facilities,

locker rooms, amenities. They want to build the cool factor into UNO Athletics.

The two largest revenue producers in Athletics are baseball and basketball. They privately raised funds to renovate the weight room. Athletics is almost self-sufficient, but will remain integrated in UNO.

A suggestion was made to make season tickets available through payroll deduction, as well as to advertise all the games, not just the most popular.

Mr. Dunkin encouraged people to sign up for the weekly Athletics email. Athletics will participate in the Special Olympics coming up, and in Trunk or Treat held on Monday, October 28. Come with your trunk decorated. Candy would be provided to hand out. There will be a Golf tournament on November 1, and Homecoming on November 5. Volunteers are needed, and there is a \$25 post-reception.

Mr. Dunkin concluded that UNO athletes have the name of the city across their chest. They take that seriously.

VII. Old Business – N/A

VIII. Next Meeting – Thursday, November 14, 2019. Valic may be there, speaking of retirement.

IX. Adjourn at 10:50 a.m.

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