The Board of Regents, Midwestern State University, met in regular session in the Board Room, Hardin Administration Building, Wichita Falls, Texas, at 5:15 p.m., Thursday, May 11, 2006. Athletics Committee members in attendance were Ms. Pam Gough, Acting Chairperson; Mr. Stephen Gustafson; and Mr. Don Ross Malone. Other regents attending the meeting were Mr. John Bridgman, Mr. Mac Cannedy, Jr., Mr. Munir Lalani, Ms. Pat Haywood, Mr. Ben Wible, and Student Regent Will Morefield.

Administrative staff members present included Dr. Jesse W. Rogers, President; Dr. Friederike Wiedemann, Provost; Mr. Juan Sandoval, Vice President for Administration and Finance; Dr. Howard Farrell, Vice President for University Advancement and Student Affairs; and Dr. Bob Clark, Associate Provost. Other university personnel attending the meeting included Mr. David Spencer, Internal Auditor; Dr. David Tucker, Chairperson of the MSU Faculty Senate; Mr. Kurt Portmann, Director of Athletics; Ms. Janus Buss, Director of Public Information and Marketing; and Ms. Debbie Barrow, Executive Assistant to the President. Mr. Jason York, Student Government Association Observer, also attended the meeting.

Acting Chairperson Gough called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

**Reading and Approval of Minutes**

06-126. The minutes of the Athletics Committee meeting February 9, 2006, were approved as presented.

**Lone Star Conference Report**

06-127. Dr. Rogers reported that MSU is a member of the Lone Star Conference (LSC), which is one of the major Division II conferences in the nation. He added that he currently serves as President of the Lone Star Conference President’s Council. The LSC is made up of schools with similar missions and economic resources. He noted that with 13 member institutions, and one institution in the North Zone that does not play football, the conference is an awkward size and scheduling is sometimes difficult. He reported that the LSC Commissioner, Mr. Fred Jacoby, was the past commissioner of the Southwest Conference. He has served the LSC as commissioner for the last 12 years and recently submitted his letter of retirement. The LSC President’s Council will meet in June to begin the process of determining a successor for Mr. Jacoby. Additionally, one of the major questions facing the LSC at this time is the necessity for expansion. The conference either needs to be smaller or larger. Dr. Rogers indicated that Mr. Portmann serves as a member of the LSC Strategic Planning Committee and this group will begin the process of reviewing conference alignments. He noted that Midwestern does not want to lose its traditional rivalries with Abilene Christian University, West Texas A&M University, Tarleton University and Texas A&M Commerce if at all possible. He indicated that he wanted to mention these changes to the Board prior to
information appearing in the newspaper. He added that the LSC is healthy and should continue to be so in the future.

Athletics Status Report
06-128. Mr. Kurt Portmann, MSU Athletic Director, distributed a synopsis of the athletics seasons for all of the sports (see Attachment No. 1). He added the following information.

1. Men’s Soccer is a member of the Southwest Soccer Conference (SSC) since there are not enough LSC schools for conference play. During the 2005-2006 year, eight schools participated in the SSC (four LSC schools, one school from the MIAA and three schools from the Heartland Conference). Unfortunately, the SSC will now be a five-school conference as the Heartland Conference added other schools to form their own soccer conference. The NCAA does not recognize a conference on the national level unless it has six teams. Mr. Cannedy asked what alternatives were available to MSU and the SSC. Mr. Portmann responded that this is not unusual because the number of men’s soccer teams, particularly in the middle of the country, is small and many conferences only have three to five member teams.

2. MSU is hosting the Regional Women’s Softball Championships at Sunrise Optimist Field. The MSU women’s team is participating in this tournament. He added that the NCAA National Tournament would be in Virginia the following week.

3. Men’s tennis team members were playing in the national tournament in Kansas City at the time of the meeting, having qualified for the Final Eight.

Mr. Malone asked if any of the senior football players received free agent invitations. Mr. Portmann responded that there were not any that he knew of. Dr. Rogers added that two line men were picked up by agents for free agency, but he did not know the final outcome.

Mr. Portmann noted that the Athletics Department is working on its Strategic Plan and is also working on putting together a student athlete handbook, particularly in light of the Duke University Lacrosse Team incident that has recently been in the media. Mr. Bridgman asked if there were schools that already had developed manuals such as this that could be called for assistance. Mr. Portmann responded that many such documents are available on line and he is using several of them as resources.

Mr. Morefield asked if a decision had been reached regarding whether walk-ons would receive student athlete insurance coverage. Mr. Portmann indicated that this matter had not yet been resolved. Mr. Malone asked if the university had liability coverage for student athletes. Mr. Portmann indicated that the university athletics teams are self-insured up to a certain limit. The university then has a policy that covers students up to the level that the NCAA policy takes over and covers catastrophic cases $75,000 and over. Mr. Malone asked if these were liability policies or health policies. Mr. Portmann stated that he was referring to health insurance policies. Mr. Malone asked if there was a
liability insurance policy that would protect the university against a catastrophic injury that might occur during a workout or game. Dr. Rogers responded that he did not recall MSU ever looking at such a policy. He asked Mr. Portmann to follow up with other schools to see if they carry such a policy. Mr. Bridgman stated that the university carries a general liability policy and indicated that perhaps this would cover athletics as well. Mr. Lalani added that the state of Texas also picks up liability of state agencies at some point.

Mr. Morefield asked how many student athletes walk-on each year. Mr. Portmann responded that of the 250 athletes in a year there might be 30-40 that are walk-ons. Dr. Rogers stated his understanding that if a walk-on made the team roster they were covered by the university. Mr. Portmann stated that was correct. Ms. Barrow added that the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee is currently looking at other options with regard to student athlete insurance and walk-ons.

Adjournment
There being no further business, the Athletics Committee discussion concluded at 5:33 p.m.

Reviewed for submission:

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Pamela Odom Gough., Acting Chairperson
Midwestern State University
Board of Regents Athletics Committee

ATTACHMENT
1. Athletics Sports News Update