

THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE
MASCOT COMMITTEE MEETING
January 25, 2006

The University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) Mascot Committee met at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 25, 2006, in Administrative Conference Room #622 on the 6th floor of the ULM Library. Committee members present were: Chairman, George Luffey, Keith Brown, Skeet Creekmore, Joe Farr, Kyle Gallman, Laura Harris, Richard Hood, Stuart Keyes, John Knesel, Staci Lamb, Scott McDonald, John Rettenmeyer, Dorothy Schween, Don Skelton, Bobby Staub, Joey Trappey, Elee Trichel, Amy Weems, Don Weems, and Amanda Wing. Mr. J. D. Malone was absent. Others attending by invitation were: Kevin Stuart, Lindsey Wilkerson, and Lillian Brown. Media personnel on hand were: Paul Letlow – News-Star; Cody Futrell – PowWow, Melissa Clark -KNOE-TV, and Brandon Thompson – KTVE-TV.

The meeting was called to order promptly at 3:30 p.m. by Chairman Luffey. Roll call was given by Don Skelton. Minutes of the January 4, 2006 were reviewed and approved as corrected.

Chairman Luffey called for Forum reports regarding which of the three initiatives was recommended. (#1) – Appeal NCAA’s decision; (#2) Keep “Indians” and face implications; or (#3) – Not to appeal NCAA’s decision and to enter process to change mascot.

Forum Reports were given by the following: Kyle Gallman, President -Student Government Association - reported from the student forum held in the Nursing Auditorium on January 24 in which there were approximately 50 students in attendance including several athletes. The general consensus of the group was to move forward with initiative #3.

John Rettenmeyer – President, Faculty Senate – general consensus of the group in attendance supported initiative #3.

Joe Farr – ULM Foundation Executive Committee met with the President last week and they support initiative #3.

Laura Harris – University Relations reported from the Faculty & Staff forum held Monday of this week, approximately 20 in attendance. The general consensus of those in attendance was for initiative #3 to change the mascot and move forward.

Joey Trappey – reported for Football and Basketball. Trappey stated that there has been many inquiries concerning what the “new” mascot will be, but the general consensus has been that they need to move forward and make a decision as soon as possible.

Skeet Creekmore – reported that the Athletic Council had a lively discussion, but in the end the Council supported retirement of the “Indian” mascot and the introduction of a “new” mascot.

Elee Trichell – reported that the Rotary Club support initiative #3 and to retire the “Indian” mascot.

Stuart Keyes – reported that the Indian Athletic Foundation supports initiative #3.

Scott McDonald – reported from L-Club. He stated that, while many of the lettermen are angry with the NCAA’s Ruling, they also understand the University’s position and support moving forward.

Don Weems – reported from the Alumni Association. They have had some complaints and some understand the positive need to move forward.

Amy Weems – reported from Student Life and Leadership forum held January 19. Many expressed concern and thought NCAA’s ruling to be unfair. After President Cofer spoke and explained the issues in more detail the views seemed to have changed. They seem to be in agreement that we need to move forward accordingly.

Staci Lamb – reporting from the Coaches, Trainers and Athletes – many have expressed disappointment with ruling, but they also recognize that there is a timing issue that involves the ordering of new uniforms and other marketing items.

Amanda Wing – reported from Soccer. They support the change of the mascot and the need to move forward in order to get the marketing in place so uniforms can be ordered.

Chairman Luffey thanked the members of the Committee for the efforts and enthusiasm in their respective forums.

Following subsequent discussion, Kyle Gallman made a motion that the Committee recommend initiative #3 – Not to Appeal the NCAA’s decision and enter a process to change the University’s mascot. John Rettenmayer seconded the motion. Chairman Luffey called for a roll call vote of the Committee Members present. The results were “unanimous” in support of initiative #3 that the Committee enter a selection process to change the University’s mascot.

Chairman Luffey announced that he will present the recommendation of the Committee to President Cofer.

Before adjourning, Skelton requested that the Committee discuss next steps of the process pending the President’s approval. It was recommended that a suggested timeline of June 1, 2006 be considered as the date to have the process completed. Bobby Staub reported that he has been in contact with Collegiate Licensing and will ask them for recommendations for a consultant to assist with marketing issues.

Don Skelton reiterated that a consultant's primary goal and responsibility will be to assist with the facilitation of the process and also identifying the marketing strategy for the new mascot. It was noted that the Committee would coordinate and screen mascot proposals.

Motion was made by Stuart Keys to appoint a sub-committee headed by Bobby Staub to draft the RFP for marketing companies. Motion seconded by Rettenmayer. Motion passed by voice vote of the committee members. The Sub-Committee will consist of Bobby Staub, Scott McDonald, Stuart Keys, Joe Farr, Skeet Creekmere and Staci Lamb.

Lindsey Wilkerson, Director of Web Development in University Relations passed around a sample of the form that after approval through proper channels, will be available online to submit mascot proposals. Amy Weems and John Rettenmayer volunteered to assist Wilkerson and offer guidance on related issues for web development.

It was recommended that a P. O. Box or alternate mailing address be established for those not having internet access. It was also suggested that various drop off locations on campus be designated to accept the proposal forms.

After much discussion and pending approval of President Cofer, the Committee recommended that the cut-off deadline to receive mascot proposals will be February 28, 2006.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.