

**Student-Athlete Exit Interview Questions**  
**(Questions can be chosen at random, please use probes)**  
**Monday, April 27, 2015**

**Athletic Council Members:** Alfred Mathewson, Amy Neel, Mike Rocca, Tim Goldsmith, Nick Schlereth and Rita Chavez

**Sports Represented:** Skiing, Swimming, Track/Field, Golf, Cross Country

Men Present: 9

Women Present: 6

- What factors led to your decision to attend the University of New Mexico?
  - Scholarship/financial aid
  - Good Program
  - Lottery Scholarship
  - Friend invited
  - Denied by other schools accepted by UNM
  - Good diverse culture
  - Altitude, weather
  
- If you had to make the decision to attend college again, would you make the same choice? Why?
  - YES:
    - Good coaches
    - Great practice facilities
    - Good weather
    - Great competition
    - Good opportunity
    - Good Academics
  - NO
    - Coaching changes hard in the middle of season
    - Never had the same trainer or coach
    - Advisement was not helpful
    - Was hard to get acclimated to New Mexico/UNM
  
- Would you encourage other student-athletes to attend the University of New Mexico? (Why yes? Why no?)
  - YES
    - Good facilities
    - Played good teams
    - Traveled to compete
    - Good coaches
    - Good trainers
    - Good resources
    - Good post season play
    - Good team
    - Good Climate
    - Depends on their goals; athletically yes if they only want to play college, no if they want to go professional; Academically yes received a good education
  - NO
    - Better communication with scholarship money, how received and when distributed
    - Advisory issues
    - Do not know the correct hours of practice have to take coaches word

- How was your experience athletically? Academically? Socially?
  - Athletics including equipment : Facilities/Operations Travel/Housing/Meals: Athletic Training/Sports Medicine/Strength and Conditioning: Academic including Academic Advising: Social:
  - **Academics**
    - Had to take core classes again, already had in high school
    - Would like coaches to be more flexible when it comes to taking classes or studying for tests
    - The football coaches were flexible with class schedule and studying needs
    - Hard had to make a decision to either play sports for a scholarship or to change major
    - When coaches are recruiting they should be honest and tell the students they will not be able to play a sport if they go into nursing, engineering, health related fields etc. The student should make the choice before entering college not while already there
    - Professors are hard to work with during the sport season
    - Was unable to take classes that are required for major
    - Advisors encouraged student-athletes to take different courses
  - **Athletics**
    - Student-athletes should be informed what majors would interfere with the sport. Recruiter should say they can't take nursing, science classes, etc. because class time interferes a great deal with the sport
    - Good strength coaches
    - Coach was flexible when it came to adjusting schedule to take a class
    - Good experience if you are looking to go professional
    - Good team/coaches
    - Great trails and tracks
    - Hard to sit in a van for 18-hours worrying if you are going to get to your destination safely
  - **Academic Advisors**
    - Advisors were not well-informed about majors
    - Had to figure out my own schedule so that it would be correct
    - Advisors recommend student-athletes take classes that are needed; or easy classes
  - Athletics including equipment : Facilities/Operations Travel/Housing/Meals: Athletic Training/Sports Medicine/Strength and Conditioning: Academic including Academic Advising: Social:
    - Facilities are great
    - Equipment is good
    - Some sports have to pay for their own equipment, which is expensive(athletic department should pay)
    - Travel is good
    - Travel is a good bonding experience
    - Travel in unsafe old vehicles
    - Travel was nice to have all the logistics taken care of for you, only had to concentrate on competition
    - Socially, was a good experience
    - Team is a family
    - Good to meet other student-athletes
    - Culture is diverse and ability to learn other cultures
    - Freshmen look to upper classman for guidance
    - Good to help with community functions
    - No locker room for team
    - Had to purchase own equipment
    - Would be nice to get recognition from our own athletic department
    - Tent Weight Room treated like children
    - Not allowed to enter tent weight room if sport is not scheduled, even if nobody is there
    - Not allowed to get milk after a run if weight room says no
    - Weight room has a condescending atmosphere
    - Be happy with what we have and it always would be nice to get more but that's just the way it is in college athletics

What would you like to improve or change about your experiences as a Lobo athlete?

- Coaching changes in the middle of the season
  - Educate Advisors, they should all be telling us the same thing
  - Athletic Advisors and university advisors should have the same information
  - Give scholarship/financial aid information at the beginning of the year ( a timeline for the entire semester)
  - Less meetings and emails
- What impact did your athletics experiences at this institution have on your personal growth?
    - Time Management

How did administration support your sport?

- Got to know Paul Krebs and Janice Ruggiero because they are usually at all sporting events
  - Nice to see that Paul Krebs and Janice are supportive to different teams
  - Never saw an administrator at our competitions
  - Sport Coordinator made a huge change this year, we saw him at quite a few if not all of our meets
  - Sport Coordinator attended our regionals with the team and it was nice to spend time with him and see how supportive and interested he was in the team; different from previous year
  - Janice Ruggiero is great she always talks to us, ask's how we are doing and we see her at our games/meets/competitions etc.
  - Sport Coordinator makes an appearance but does not reach out or talk to any student-athletes
  - Most did not know who were their Athletic Council Team Liaison
  - Most did not know that the administrator's title was Sport Coordinator but if you mention administrator's name they knew who they were
- How are racial or sexual issues handled with student athletes at the University of New Mexico? (Racism? Sexism?)
    - No sexual or racial issues
    - No difference in treatment of men and women
- What type of changes do you feel would be beneficial for intercollegiate athletics in general?
    - Coaches should be honest in the recruiting process felt misled about what major could be taken
    - Explain scholarships and financial aid more thoroughly (give a timeline out at beginning of the semester) Explain that they will have other expenses that come out of scholarships and financial aid.
    - International students need a lot more information before coming out, need to make sure they know about medical insurance, if they meet eligibility requirements before they come to America
    - More information on NCAA while recruiting
- What type of changes do you feel would be beneficial for intercollegiate athletics in general?
    - More honesty from coaches regarding majors that can or cannot be taken if playing a sport
    - Tell student-athletes what all comes out of scholarship money or what has to be paid with scholarship funds
    - Coaches should be better informed when it comes to recruiting international students

**Student-Athlete Exit Interview Questions**  
**(Questions can be chosen at random, please use probes)**  
**Thursday, April 23, 2015**

**Athletic Council Members:** Alfred Mathewson, Nick Schlereth, Dan Barkley, Marie Lobo, Amy Neel, Janet Poole, Jackie Hood, Todd Seidler and Rita Chavez

**Sports Represented:** Swimming, Track, Volleyball, Sand Volleyball, Women's Basketball, Skiing and Football

Men Present: 8

Women Present: 9

- What factors led to your decision to attend the University of New Mexico?
  - Scholarship/financial aid
  - Facilities
  - Coach
  - In State
  - Good Team
  
- If you had to make the decision to attend college again, would you make the same choice? Why?
  - YES:
    - Local advantages
    - Good Education
    - Weather
    - Good Team
  - NO
    - Coaching changes are hard mid-season
    - Forced to use NM health Insurance
    - Inform Int'l students in greater detail about insurance
    - Inform student-athletes in greater detail what scholarships include or exclude
    - Give time lines for certain deadlines regarding scholarships (more advanced notice)
    - Inform student-athletes how they will received money and hold to that date because of obligations
      - (late checks cause a hardship)
    - Coach
  
- Would you encourage other student-athletes to attend the University of New Mexico? (Why yes? Why no?)
  - YES
    - Training Facilities excellent
    - Good community support
    - Great team mates-for out-of-state student-athletes they feel team mates are their family
    - Good Academic Programs
    - Good coach
  - NO
    - Better communication with scholarship money, how received and when distributed
    - Advisory issues
    - Changes in head coaches during the season
    - Better communication when being recruited, will they be able to play the sport and get the degree they want, (several had to change majors because of class schedules)
    - Need better academic advisors-some are great and accessible and it seems as some just don't care  
Need to be more informed about classes that need to be taken before graduation/need to be more informed period.
  
- How was your experience athletically? Academically? Socially?
  - Athletics including equipment : Facilities/Operations Travel/Housing/Meals: Athletic Training/Sports Medicine/Strength and Conditioning: Academic including Academic Advising: Social:

- **Academics**
  - Not challenging enough for international students
  - Professors are hard to work with during the sport season
  - Was unable to take classes that are required for major
  - Advisors encouraged student-athletes to take different courses
  - Had to change major because was told something different during recruiting process
  - Coaches in football allowed student-athletes to come late to practice if it interfered with a class. Academics first football 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Good business school; professors were flexible
  
- **Athletics**
  - The coach emphasis was not on academics was on the sport. Was not allowed to take time for a class offered only at a certain time or studying when needed
  - Student-athletes should be informed what majors would interfere with the sport. Recruiter should say they can't take nursing, science classes, etc. because class time interferes a great deal with the sport.
  - Should have safe vehicles, if a team has to travel to compete they should feel safe while on the road. (When something happens due to vehicle not being safe to drive and someone gets seriously hurt or dies then it will be noticed or dealt with)
  - Facilities are great
  - Student-athletes that are not football players are not allowed to enter the weight room
  - Coach would not provide good meals or would deny food for a longer period after a game
  - (i.e.) Had to eat where coach wanted to stop, KFC, Pizza; no nutritional value
  - Had to have salad for 6 meals in a row
  - Coach would disgrace women student-athletes telling them they need to slim down and if they did they would perform better
  - Olympic sports have to practice outside all the time they are not allowed to use the IPF when there is bad weather
  
- **Academic Advisors**
  - Advisors were not well-informed about majors
  - One student-athlete had 4 different athletic academic advisors and they all told her different things (a change in advisors should not cause changes in classes etc.-Advisors all should be giving same information)
  - Student-athlete was not able to be seen by an advisor because the advisor was writing a paper for another student-athlete
  - Student-athletes were not given a travel schedule to prepare ahead of time
  - Get too many emails, so student-athlete ignores quite a few of them
  - Student-athlete was told they could apply for a 5<sup>th</sup> year scholarship two days before the application was due (Need more time!)
  
- **Athletics including equipment : Facilities/Operations Travel/Housing/Meals: Athletic Training/Sports Medicine/Strength and Conditioning: Academic including Academic Advising: Social: (cont)**
  - Facilities are great
  - Off campus housing good
  - Training room good
  - Strength and conditioning (should be able to have various sports practice in the tent training room)
  - Even if the tent training room is empty athletes are not allowed to enter
  - Trainers don't show up to practice or games, student-athletes have no water or treatment
  - Trainers are important to student-athletes there is a lot of turnover with GA's
  - There are several student-athletes for track and cross country and there is only one trainer for all those student-athletes it causes a lot of congestion and some student-athletes to take care of themselves or take care of each other
  - Feel that the trainers are tired and don't want to deal with a sport or ignore the student-athletes when they ask for help (why?)

What would you like to improve or change about your experiences as a Lobo athlete?

- Coaching changes in the middle of the season
  - Medical Insurance-should be allowed to use their own insurance for Int'l student-athletes
  - Educate Advisors, they should all be telling us the same thing
  - Athletic Advisors should be able to talk with the university advisors
  - Recruiters should give the full truth about majors when they are being recruited; for example the recruiter should tell the student-athlete they should consider another major because it will always conflict with the sport schedule, or give them information that the coach will or will not work the student-athlete when it comes to study or exam time. The student-athlete can make a better choice for him or herself
- What impact did your athletics experiences at this institution have on your personal growth?
    - Taught how to look for solutions on your own
    - Appreciate hard work
    - Learn from adversities
    - How to work under pressure
    - How to balance academics, sport, work and social life
    - To push yourself past your limit
    - Can receive critiques better and understand why they are given
    - How to stay calm when under pressure
- How did administration support your sport?
    - Mr. Krebs came to see our competitions
    - Janice came to see our competitions/whether or not we are one of her sports
    - Administration did not recognize us within the department, on campus or the community for winning a National Championship
    - Olympic sports were impressed how much their sport coordinator attended practices and games Student-athletes felt his support this year
    - Olympic sports understand that football and basketball support all the other sports, but Olympic sports should have safe equipment,(vehicles) equipment purchased for them for practice and competition. Administration should make themselves known at practice or events. Administration should attend sport banquets whenever possible
    - Appreciate notes from Vice-President
- How are racial or sexual issues handled with student athletes at the University of New Mexico? (Racism? Sexism?)
    - There quite a few comments from various coaches, trainers for female student-athletes to watch their weight (Even though the athlete feels good and is healthy)
    - Women have weekly weigh ins
    - Men do not receive many comments about weight issues
    - Weight issues need to be addressed with coaches and trainers. They should leave weight issues to the doctors
    - Different dynamic for men and women when it comes to weight
    - A coach jokes about their own race and sometimes is offensive to players
- What type of changes do you feel would be beneficial for intercollegiate athletics in general?
    - Look at study hall requirements, basically it is a social hour and could study better on own time
    - Student-athletes were given a career night to show what jobs might be available to them after graduation but they were mostly sales jobs, student-athletes would like a more diverse group: Accountants, Lawyers, Doctors, Nurse, Science /Research, teachers etc.
    - A year after the students graduate they should be contacted to see what type of job they are doing does it have anything to do with their degree
- What type of changes do you feel would be beneficial for intercollegiate athletics in general?
    - Nothing different that has already been said