MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 21, 2014

TO: Executive Secretary
University Council

FROM: Terrence R. Bishop,
Chair, Athletic Board (FY 2014)

RE: FY 2014 Annual Report of Athletic Board

During the 2013-2014 academic year the Athletic Board held six meetings. Minutes detailing the proceedings of the meetings have been forwarded to your office. Also, sub-committee meetings (Executive, Equity/Diversity, Budget, Student-Athlete Wellbeing, and External Relations) were held periodically throughout the year. The following points summarize the activities of the Athletic Board over FY 2014.

1. The Budget Committee and the Athletic Board monitored revenues and expenditures from the FY14 local fund budget. The Board approved the FY 2014 budget at its first meet in the fall. The Board and the Committee received quarterly reports detailing revenues and expenditures. As in past years, due to delays in in state allocation processes, the FY 2015 local fund budget was not reviewed or approved by the end of FY 2014.

2. Ticket prices and policies were reviewed by the Executive Committee and approved by the Athletic Board. Complimentary ticket polices were also reviewed and approved by the board. Special promotions involving ticket prices were also approved.

3. The Board received updates on NCAA policies and issues, and performance of Athletic Department support units. The Faculty Athletic Representative, Matt Streb, provided periodic reports of NIU’s performance on NCAA standard academic performance measures, such as the Academic Progress Rate (APR) and Graduation Success Rate (GSR). NIU’s performance on these measures is very good, both as an entire department, as well as sport by sport. Professor Streb and Sean Frazier provided frequent updates on developments in policies, guidelines and compliance issues at the NCAA and conference levels, including pending legislation. The board was also kept informed about the Huskie LEAD program and other student athlete academic recognition programs.
4. The Executive Committee reviewed scheduling issues and assured that scheduling policies were followed. The Board examined schedules and provided feedback to the Department about scheduling implications. Missed classed time by student athletes was examined and evaluated.

5. The External Relations Committee provided input and evaluation of marketing, public relations and alumni relations activities. The committee and board were given reports on the transition from IMG to Learfield as NIU’s media rights holder and licensing agent.

6. The Student-Athlete Wellbeing Subcommittee monitored activities and policies instituted for the purpose of achieving success in student-athlete performance, particularly with regards to classroom success and overall health and welfare.

7. The Board was updated on newly hired personnel. New staff members introduced were Sean Frazier (AD), Ryan Sedevie (Associate AD, Collegiate Advancement and External Affairs), Melissa Dawson (Senior Associate Athletics Director-Student Athlete Academic Support Services), and John Cheney (Senior Associate Athletics Director – Facilities and Events Operations). Updates to the Athletics Department organizational chart and responsibility assignments were provided to the board.

8. The Athletic Department provided the board with status reports on bowl invitation possibilities, the invitation to play in the Poinsettia Bowl in San Diego, and follow up reports about the travel and finances associates with the trip.

9. The Equity/Diversity Subcommittee monitored ongoing efforts to manage compliance with Title IX requirements and compliance issues as defined by the Office of Civil Rights. Periodic updates of the status of our case with the OCR were provided.

Please feel free to contact me should you need additional clarification regarding the Athletic Board’s activities during FY 2014.

cc: D. Baker
S. Frazier