Athletic Board
Wednesday, May 2, 2012
Holmes Student Center Room #306, 1:00 p.m.

Present: Terry Bishop (Chair), T.J. Lusher, Paul Bauer, Todd Latham, Don Tidrick, Matt Streb, Jeff Compher, Earl Hansen, Gretchen Schlabach, David Taylor, Peggy Simonds, Rocco Taglia, Kristin Hoffman, Austin Quick

Guests: Carl Armato, Assoc AD/Facilities; Shelley Binegar, Assoc AD/Development and Marketing; Debra Boughton, Assoc AD/Business Affairs; Christian Spears, Sr. Assoc AD/Administration

I. Call to Order – T. Bishop (1:06pm)

II. Approval of March 21, 2012 Meeting Minutes
   A. Quick made a motion to approve the March 21, 2012 meeting minutes. E. Hansen seconded the motion.

   Having no corrections, additions or deletions, the motion was carried.

III. Faculty Athletics Representative – Matt Streb

   A. NIU will be nominating Troy White, a member of the Baseball team, for an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship.
   B. M. Streb is going to Cleveland to attend the upcoming MAC Spring Joint Committee meetings. He will report at an upcoming Athletic Board meeting.
   C. The Men’s Tennis, Women’s Tennis, and Wrestling teams all filled out an NCAA gambling survey. The instrument contained 68 questions and when the data is received, M. Streb will share it with this group at some point. The data is very relevant and will show that gambling is a serious issue.

IV. Committees

   A. Equity/Diversity – D. Tidrick

      No committee report, however, D. Boughton attended a Title IX seminar in Chicago which was sponsored by the Office for Civil Rights. She attended the session regarding athletics and was able to get good information. Of interest is the individual who is reviewing NIU’s pending case was the presenter at the seminar. D. Boughton and C. Spears have requested from Institutional Research the current percentages of the male vs female population on campus. Brief discussion then ensued about the background of NIU’s current Title IX case. The whole idea of surveying has gone in and out of favor with OCR and there is no clear position at this time. It is tough to maintain gender equity in the context of sports because there are presently no firm guidelines.
B. Budget – P. Bauer
   No report. Will present information under New Business.

C. Student-Athlete Wellbeing – D. Changnon
   C. Spears reported that he working to get the Student-Athlete Handbook out for summer orientation for the student-athletes. His goal is to have the handbook available for them in June. If the Athletic Board meets in June, he will have a copy for this group, as well.

D. External Relations – T. Latham
   S. Binegar briefly reviewed the student sporting event (Football) satisfaction survey. It was administered to all juniors and seniors, of whom, 373 responded. A number of the Research Rookies did this as their project and worked with Dr. Aurand to get it completed.

As part of Vision 2020’s student experience subcommittee focus, it was agreed to work on increasing the satisfaction level of students attending the football games. There are a couple of areas to note. 83% of the respondents have attended at least one football game since arriving on campus. The students will be surveyed again in three years. Athletics will share some of this information with John Gordon’s staff, as well, especially as it relates to concessions. The students would also like to do this survey with Basketball next year. This is the survey which Athletics will also change a bit and send out to the season ticket holders, asking many of the same questions. As you review this data, if you think there are questions we didn’t ask but should for the season ticket holders, please let Shelley know. G. Schlabach suggested that Athletics may want to consider weather and the win-loss record. D. Tidrick added that perhaps the survey should be shorter. S. Binegar reported that Dr. Aurand recommended the survey not be over 30 questions. The student survey was administered via SurveyMonkey and they had 30 days to respond. The suggestion was also made that the first year experience in the TLC group would also be good to have review. We need to find out why some students don’t come to athletics events.

V. New Business

A. FY12 Third Quarter Report – D. Boughton
   D. Boughton provided a brief overview of the report. It shows that Athletics is short on the athletic fee and enrollment. This part of the budget is enrollment-based. We have not yet collected funds from the MAC or IMG.

   With regard to expenses, the games management line is always difficult to budget.

   If you have questions about this, feel free to call or e-mail D. Boughton.
P. Bauer pointed out that in the games management line, it wouldn’t seem possible that NIU is the only university in this situation. D. Boughton stated that in FY11, Athletics was able to do a better job funding the games management line but it seems the extra football game in FY12 really made an impact.

B. Bowl Expenses Report – D. Boughton
Each team going to a bowl game must submit the expenses information to the NCAA. This report provides a snapshot of the institution's expenses.

Please e-mail or phone D. Boughton with any questions you may have about this information.

VI. Announcements / Adjournment

A. The Victors
The event is tomorrow evening, May 3, at The Egyptian Theater. Athletics is very much looking forward to the event. C. Spears said when J. Compher came to NIU, we had the Academic Excellence Awards and also the senior banquet. C. Spear and S. Binegar talked about combining the two events. The reception starts tomorrow at 7:15 and the program begins at 8:05. A slide show will start at 7:45pm.

B. MAC Men’s Golf tournament – Thursday-Sunday, May 3-6 at Rich Harvest Farms
The teams will be playing 36 holes on Friday and 18 holes both on Saturday and Sunday. It is a free event and open to the public. Rich Harvest Farms is an incredible venue and we did have to seek special permission from the MAC to host the event on our home course. Athletics is very excited to be hosting the tournament there and cannot thank Jerry Rich and his staff enough for all they have done. They waived all fees, provided a buffet and also caddies every day. Coach Porten is doing a great job moving this event forward. Our team has not been able to play the course since January in order to even out the play but they are ready to go. Anyone wishing to follow play can log on to www.golfstat.com and get live stats. The teams tee off each day at 8am.

The Women’s Golf tournament was a great event and came down to a very exciting playoff on the last hole.

C. MAC Men’s Tennis
Three years ago, NIU hired Patrick Fisher and the team won the conference championship this year. When Coach Fisher was hired, he had two student-athletes on the team and then dropped down to one student-athlete. He has done amazing things with the team.
D. Athletics Strategic Plan

C. Spears began by explaining that Athletics’ strategic plan can be found on its website (www.niuhuskies.com). Several things have already been accomplished and Athletics extends its appreciation to the Athletic Board for its role in the plan.

T. Bishop then said that we do have a possible meeting on the schedule in June. Historically, that is a meeting held to approve the budget. Typically, the State’s budget is not available until late summer so sometimes it is difficult to get a budget ready by June. Please keep that date (Wednesday, June 20) available just in case we do need to meet.

TJ Lusher made a motion to adjourn the meeting. E. Hansen seconded the motion. Motion was carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:02pm.