Athletic Board  
Wednesday, June 20, 2012  
Holmes Student Center Capitol South, 1:00pm.

Present: Terry Bishop (chair), Todd Latham, Matt Streb, Jeff Compher, Earl Hansen, Gretchen Schlabach, Peggy Simonds, Bill Cassidy

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 (1:05pm)

II. Approval of May 2, 2012 Meeting Minutes

E. Hansen made a motion to approve the May 2, 2012 meeting minutes as presented. G. Schlabach seconded the motion.

P. Simonds submitted one correction. Following that correction, motion was carried unanimously.

III. Faculty Athletics Representative – M. Streb

A. Kristin Hoffman has been named a nominee for the MAC Outstanding Woman of the Year. She will move to the next level of consideration. The winner will be announced in August.

She was also nominated for the Bob James award for which she should have a good chance of being selected.

B. Attended the MAC spring meetings since our last meeting. Routine business was conducted and very little policy was came out of the meeting.

C. Also attended the NCAA regional rules seminar recently. Very interesting to sit in on a mock NCAA hearing.

D. We are getting ready to release the APR scores for the year. There were always penalties for schools but now if an institution is below the 930 cut score, the team will be unable to participate in post-season competition. You should have seen the release that NIU Football finished in the 90%-ile for all Football and our Track and Field team also finished in the 90%-ile.

As you look at the information for our Men’s Tennis team, we will eventually be able to eliminate the low scores and work from the higher ones. The focus is also on Wrestling and Women’s Tennis. In the case of Wrestling, coaching changes can have an effect because students may decide to transfer. Also remember that these are not real time data. The information presented today is from 2010-11.

J. Compher then added that beginning this year, each head coach has an APR score that will follow them. This will be a useful tool as institutions hire new head coaches because they will be able to track their APR numbers. C. Spears has put together a graph of every head coach at NIU, with the exception of the new Softball head coach. This is public information and is a useful when
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Institutions are hiring a new coach. Those of you who are on the University’s compliance oversight committee have seen this information. Each sport team has an APR projection worksheet and a real time projection worksheet. Every time a student-athlete wishes to transfer or if they are going to fail a class, Athletics reviews the information to see what impact it will have on the program, the head coach and our institution. Surprisingly few schools do this. Each sport team has this information.

G. Schlabach asked if coaches talk about this during recruitment. C. Spears answered that NIU Athletics uses this information in conversation with a recruit. M. Streb said a coach needs to be very careful about who they bring in because of the APR. Athletics has done a better job managing the rosters, also, which helps with APR, but needs to do a better job with targeted recruiting. We should not bring people in and wait to see what happens with them. Coaches should have that conversation during the recruiting process. NIU leads the way in many of these areas.

T. Bishop then asked what happens if a team goes under the cut score. J. Compher stated that the institution receives a warning about penalties but they are not implemented until the 2014-15 academic year. That gives them time to correct the situation.

G. Schlabach then asked if the information is not in real time, who gets penalized? M. Streb answered that the student-athletes on the team currently would be the ones penalized.

IV. Committees

A. Equity/Diversity – D. Tidrick
   No report.

B. Budget – P. Bauer
   Will be addressed under New Business.

C. Student-Athlete Wellbeing – D. Changnon
   C. Spears reported that he has copies of the 2012-13 Student-Athlete Handbook for the Board chair and the subcommittee chairs. This handbook is provided to all of the student-athletes when they enroll. The summer school students have their copy now and those student-athletes who will be here for Fall will receive theirs in August. J. Mickey will send you the link to the electronic version of the handbook.

D. External Relations – T. Latham
   T. Latham reported that there has been discussion for a couple of years about obtaining information from the season ticket holders relative to their perceptions of various facets of the Athletics Department. We need to be sure we are delivering what we need to be delivering. T. Latham and S. Binegar have reviewed the survey which was originally sent to the students to obtain the same sort of information and now have made adjustments to use with the season ticket holders.

In answer to a suggestion, S. Binegar said the demographic information could be moved to the end of the survey because it is more important to get answers to the other questions. Asking the survey
recipients why they are a season ticket holder will be added to the survey. The instrument is now over 30 questions so it may be that some questions will have to be cut. She would like to wrap this up quickly so the survey can go out. E. Hansen suggested not asking about income because respondents may just choose to discontinue answering questions at that point. J. Compher suggested instead looking at their zipcode. S. Binegar said this is an anonymous survey and contains no identifying information. She will be looking at tailoring this to use for sports other than Football, too.

V. New Business

A. FY13 Athletics Budget – D. Boughton
D. Boughton began by providing a brief overview of the budget presented.

E. Hansen made a motion to approve the FY13 athletics budget as presented. T. Latham seconded the motion.

Having no questions, the motion was carried unanimously.

T. Bishop congratulated D. Boughton and the Athletics Department on presenting the budget today. The Athletic Board has not approved the department’s budget in June for many years and he appreciates the efforts in getting it ready to present.

B. FY13 Football Comp Ticket Policy – D. Boughton
D. Boughton gave a brief overview of the policy presented. There is nothing significant in the policy except that Pup Club single game tickets. The Ticket Office does a great job managing the process and gets better each year. At the auditor’s suggestion, the Ticket Office has made this a separate category. Over the years more categories have been added but not more tickets. This separation provides clarity for tracking.

Having no further discussion, the motion was carried unanimously.

C. Athletics Update – J. Compher
1. The Outdoor Track & Field team finished 7th at the MAC championships which is the highest finished since the program was re-introduced. Will be sending some individuals to the upcoming NCAA regionals. This program continues to get better and better.

2. Personnel
   a. Softball – since the last Athletic Board meeting, head coach Lindsay Chouinard has resigned. A search was begun to find a replacement and D. Boughton was able to identify individuals and narrowed it down to the assistant coach at Miami University. She was brought to campus in the last two weeks and accepted our offer. Her name is Christina Sutcliffe. You will have the chance to meet her at the September Athletic Board meeting. Additionally, the former assistant Softball coach, Megan Ciolli, is also not returning. Jenna Roberts, formerly the second assistant, is returning. She is doing a great job with the transition.

   b. Marketing – last year, the Assistant Athletics Director for Marketing was vacant the entire year. It is now time to get the position filled so S. Binegar has been working very hard to get that done. Amanda Benzine, who formerly held the position, left to go to the WAC.
Ryan Harris did a great job in the meantime filling the gap. Athletics has recently hired Greg Herring for the position. He will be joining the staff on July 9. He is currently the incoming president of NACMA (National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administrators). Greg brings great experience and energy to the position. The timing of this hire is excellence because Athletics needs that new perspective and energy and completes that staff.

c. Women’s Golf – Athletics is also in the midst of searching for a head women’s golf coach. Pam Tyska has retired and is now at Kishwaukee Country Club with a new academic program there. Athletics is looking at some organizational restructuring within that program. Andrew Frame has recently been hired as a full time coach for both the men’s and women’s golf programs. It is a unique way to maximize the recruiting pool because he will be able to recruit for and travel with both programs. The administrators are looking at some other programmatic changes which will be announced in the next week or so. It is important to hire someone who understands golf in the Midwest.

d. Men’s Soccer – There has been some turnover on that staff, as well. The top assistant is leaving to take a position with another program. Approximately every two years, half the Athletics coaching staff is new.

3. IHSA Football championships
   There was a University and community-wide effort to submit a bid to host the Illinois state football finals. Having recently learned that ours was the accepted bid, we are very pleased to be able to host this event. Sixteen teams will be here every other year for ten years beginning in 2013. C. Armato and his staff are very much involved in the process.

VI. Announcements / Adjournment

   A. T. Bishop then recognized Earl Hansen for his role on the Athletic Board for 30 years. His service and dedication to Northern Illinois University and Intercollegiate Athletics is very much appreciated.

   T. Latham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. G. Schlabach seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.