Athletic Board  
Wednesday, September 21, 2011  
Holmes Student Center Skyroom, 1pm

Present: Terry Bishop (Chair), David Changnon, TJ Lusher, Paul Bauer, Todd Latham, Don Tidrick, Jeff Compher, Gretchen Schlabach, David Taylor, Laura Sala, Bill Cassidy

Guests: Carl Armato, Associate AD; Shelley Binegar, Assoc AD/Development and Marketing; Debra Boughton, Assoc AD/Business Affairs; Greg Hipp, Head Cross Country Coach; Christian Spears, Sr. Assoc AD/Administration

I. Call to Order – T. Bishop (1:05pm)

II. Approval of May 4, 2011, Meeting Minutes

J. Rintala made a motion to approve the May 4, 2011, meeting minutes as presented. D. Tidrick seconded the motion.

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

III. Introduction of New Athletics Department Staff Members

T. Bishop explained that it is the Board’s practice to introduce new head coaches and Athletics Department executive staff to them. J. Compher then introduced both C. Armato and G. Hipp.

J. Compher explained that Carl is on staff as an associate athletics director. He was the Rockford schools’ athletics director for three years. He is a former student-athlete and also coached both the men’s and women’s basketball programs. When D. Abrahamson and R. Collins left, having both been coaches, Jeff felt having a coach on the executive team was necessary to provide a coach’s input. He is a great fit for us and is doing an excellent job. He is in charge of facilities, game operations and also several sport programs. Carl has done a great job of reconnecting with people.

Greg is our new Head Women’s Cross Country coach. Jeff and Christian Spears both believe we can be very good in women’s cross country because of the talent pool in the Midwest. There are many excellent programs and we needed to tap into that but it was difficult to do having only one coach who is more based in track and field and not necessarily cross country and distance. Athletics created a new head coach position for cross country. Coach Hipp is a former champion runner at Appalachian State and comes to us directly from Missouri State where he built a conference championship program. He comes with experience both as a student-athlete and also as a coach. Glad to have him on board.

Coach Hipp stated that the season is just beginning and there is lots to do to get to the level it can be but the team is transitioning well into the new system. On November 12, NIU is hosting the NCAA cross country regional at the North Forty. It is going to be a very large scale event. Some athletes will be in the Olympics and others already have been.
Carl stated that he supervises Volleyball, Women’s Tennis, Gymnastics, and Baseball, and also assists with facilities and game operations. He had a great experience here as a student and hopes to do for NIU what NIU did for him.

**IV. Faculty Athletics Representative – Jan Rintala**

J. Rintala began her report by explaining for the new members of the Board, every NCAA member institution has to delegate, by presidential appointment, a faculty athletics representative. That individual reports to the president but works with the Athletics Department. Academics, student-athlete wellbeing, and compliance with NCAA rules are the three primary areas of focus.

Over the summer, we submitted the APR-GSR data. They are two indices of the NCAA’s academic reform package. J. Rintala reviews the information and signs off on it.

Fall is a very busy time for eligibility because no one gets to compete without either her or Matt Streb’s sign-off. Jan will be retiring at the end of the semester and M. Streb will take over the position in January. He is going to be very well prepared to do so. To help with that transition, she and Matt both attended the MAC summer meetings. They heard about the issue emerging with transgendered athletes. It is a very complex issue and one that the NCAA has to develop rules for.

This weekend they will be going to the Division I-A Faculty Athletics Representatives meetings in Dallas. Jan wants to be able to introduce Matt to the organization. She will have more to report at next month’s meeting.

Every three to four years, representatives from the Mid-American Conference (MAC) visit institutions to do a compliance review and that visit is scheduled in November for us. Though most of you will not be involved in that visit, some of you will.

**V. Committees**

T. Bishop began by explaining that the Athletic Board has four standing subcommittees. He asks that everyone sign up for at least one subcommittee but you are certainly welcome to sign up for more, if you wish. Each subcommittee chair was asked to give a brief overview of what their particular committee does.

P. Bauer is the chair of the Budget subcommittee. Each month, the budget subcommittee has a little bit of work to do such as review ticket prices, complimentary ticket policies, etc.

T. Latham is the chair of the External Relations subcommittee. S. Binegar and he work together primarily with the alumni, the community in areas such as marketing, communication, seeking feedback for Athletics, etc.

D. Tidrick is the chair of the Equity-Diversity subcommittee. This committee monitors Athletics’ compliance with the laws and institutional policies for men’s and women’s participation issues and also diversity issues.
T. Bishop then said with M. Streb moving into the faculty athletics representative role, we would be seeking a new chair for the Student-Athlete Wellbeing subcommittee. D. Changnon has agreed to chair the subcommittee. M. Streb said this committee works with C. Spears in the Athletics Department. The committee can be busier at some times than others but has been involved in the final exam policy, the SAASS survey, and the missed class policy. It might possibly work on the transgender issue, as well.

A. Equity-Diversity – D. Tidrick
   D. Boughton reported that the interest survey needs to be done this year because it was not done last year. The parameters of the survey changed with the Obama administration so we need to know what the new parameters are to meet the third prong of Title IX. D. Boughton has been working with the Title IX officer on campus and they are working with the Institutional Compliance office so she is waiting for them to solidify the policy. Also waiting for the new Title IX officer to return from a conference in Boston so we can use their guidance on this. D. Boughton will touch base with her and Steve Cunningham.

B. Budget – P. Bauer
   1. FY11 Fourth Quarter Report
      D. Boughton presented the ‘information only’ report and began by providing an overview. Athletics is taking advantage of all possible resources to recruit the best athletes but also keeping up with costs.

   2. FY12 Athletics Department Budget
      D. Boughton went on to present an overview of the FY12 budget. The FY12 fee increase of 6.5% will help cover grants-in-aid and salary increases. Athletics has had the opportunity to identify areas where changes can be made that will impact the budget.

J. Rintala made a motion to approve the FY12 Athletics budget as presented. D. Tidrick seconded the motion.

D. Tidrick asked how D. Boughton determines which sports receive an increase. She explained that in the spring, coaches submit their budget requests and a review is done of their current budget situation. Areas of shortfall are identified and a needs assessment is also done. Requests are submitted to the executive team which looks at all areas that need to be increased.

Having no questions or discussion, motion was carried unanimously.

T. Bishop went on to say that the Athletic Board typically holds a date in June for the possibility of meeting on the budget but we have to wait for the State to give us the information. We would certainly rather approve the budget before the fiscal year begins but that has not been the case of late. It is also not worth having a meeting if the agenda does not contain pressing items.

C. Student-Athlete Wellbeing
   D. Boughton then shared the missed class information which tracks the days student-athletes miss in correlation with the team GPA. The information is trending the same and there is nothing alarming. She will continue to provide this information.
M. Streb said the Athletics Department has its own missed class policy which was developed last year. T. Bishop said if there are questions about this information, let him or J. Compher know.

D. External Affairs – T. Latham
No report.

VI. New Business

A. FY12 Men’s/Women’s Basketball Ticket Prices – S. Binegar
   The single game price from last year stayed the same and the only reason the season ticket prices changed was due to the increase in home games. Other than that, there are really no other changes.

TJ Lusher pointed out that the Men’s Basketball schedule has a mini-plan but asked about the combo plan for Women’s Basketball. S. Binegar stated that the Huskie Value Pack is $30 and is good for either men’s or women’s games so it provides maximum flexibility.

TJ Lusher made a motion to approve the FY12 Men’s/Women’s Basketball Ticket Prices. D. Changnon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

B. FY12 Basketball Comp Ticket Policy – S. Binegar
   Again, no changes except that the ‘pep band’ has been changed to ‘band.’ Eric Schultz, Director of Ticketing, does monitor the number of comp tickets used. The single game tickets never reach the numbers being given out. Athletics does not print season tickets for Volleyball, Gymnastics or Wrestling; they only print single game tickets. T. Bishop pointed out that as Athletic Board members, they receive complimentary admissions and if you wish to attend, go to the ticket window and tell them you are a member of the Athletic Board to get your tickets.

J. Rintala made a motion to approve the FY12 Basketball Comp Ticket Policy as presented. TJ Lusher seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

C. ACT-FGR Comparison – C. Spears
   He stated that he does have the ACT scores but until the Division I report comes out, he cannot finish putting the information together. He will present the information at an upcoming meeting.

D. Athletics Organizational Chart – J. Compher
   J. Compher began by explaining with the retirement of Dee Abrahamson and the hiring of Carl Armato, the department’s organizational chart has been reconfigured somewhat. The executive team meets every week and senior staff meets every other week. Sport oversight is shown in red and additional responsibilities are in gray. It is Jeff’s intention to share how responsibilities are distributed within the department. He encouraged Board members to contact him with any questions they may have.
E. Facilities Update – J. Compher

The major announcement was made at the Soldier Field game this past Saturday that the Athletics Department has received a $3 million gift for the indoor practice facility. There is currently no firm design for the building nor has any engineering begun. This is a building that is much-needed by the department and every sport will benefit. It will be located at the north side of the Yordon Center and connect to it to be part of the athletics complex. The university is not in the process of building or breaking ground yet because there is still work to do on the fundraising side. There is no timeframe yet for a groundbreaking but this is a building that will be built utilizing private funding. Jeff feels very good about the reception from the people with whom he has met regarding this project. Currently asking only for six-figure gifts and when those are in, the staff will know where we are in terms of a public campaign. D. Tidrick asked what figure the university is looking at for the building. J. Compher stated approximately $9 to $9.5 million.

Jeff went on to say that some other facility upgrades have taken place this year and have gotten great feedback from the student-athletes. C. Armato reported that the west tennis courts north of Huskie Stadium have been resurfaced. They look and play better. Each men’s and women’s tennis play sent an e-mail to Jeff expressing their appreciation of the upgrade. Athletics is also looking at doing some work on the Softball infield. He will be traveling to Northwestern on Monday to look at their field as they have a surface similar to ours. He will also be meeting with some representatives from Northwestern to see what we can do to improve our field. Carl said Baseball is going to be renovating their warning track and he met with them at the field yesterday.

Some trees have been removed from the North Forty area for our cross country program but those trees will also be replaced.

VII. Announcements / Adjournment

D. Tidrick mentioned that tomorrow night is Inside Huskie Sports at Cabana Charley’s at 7pm. If you have time, please stop by.

T. Latham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. D. Changnon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously and meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.

The next meeting of the Athletic Board is Wednesday, October 19, 2011, at 1pm in Holmes Student Center Room #505. The executive committee will meet on Wednesday, October 5, 2011, at 1:30pm in the Athletics Administration Conference Room in the Convocation Center room #200.