Athletic Board
Wednesday, October 19, 2011
Holmes Student Center Room #406, 1:00pm

Present: Terry Bishop (Chair), David Changnon, Brian Hemphill, TJ Lusher, Paul Bauer, Todd Latham, Don Tidrick, Jan Rintala, Gretchen Schlabach, David Taylor, Steve Sliga, Jerry Blakemore, Laura Sala, Peggy Simonds, Bill Cassidy, Jared Torrence, Samantha Grams, Austin Quick

Guests: Carl Armato, Associate AD; Shelley Binegar, Assoc AD/Development and Marketing; Debra Boughton, Assoc AD/Business Affairs; Mark Muhlhauser, Assoc AD/Major Gifts Officer; Laura Sala, Associate University Counsel

I. Call to Order – T. Bishop (1:06pm)

II. Approval of September 21, 2011 Meeting Minutes

D. Changnon made a motion to approve the September 21, 2011 meeting minutes as presented. J. Rintala seconded the motion. G. Schlabach submitted a correction. Following the submission, motion was carried unanimously.

III. Faculty Athletics Representative – J. Rintala

A. M. Streb and she attended the Division IA Faculty Athletics Representatives meeting in Dallas last month. Items of note from the meeting include:

1. This is the first year at the Division IA Faculty Athletics Representatives Academic Award was given. All of the FARs decided to recognize those student-athletes who had graduated in the last year with at least a 3.8 GPA and had played at least two years at an FBS-level institution. Three student-athletes from NIU were in the group recognized – Annie Wyer (Women’s Soccer), Kaylee Walters (Women’s Track & Field), and Kyle Knotek (Men’s Soccer). In total, 432 student-athletes were recognized.

2. They attended a series of programs and panel discussions.
   a. David Berst, from the NCAA, talked about the large disparity in budgets within the FBS institutions (the automatic qualifiers and non-automatic qualifier conferences). The budgets range from approximately $4.1 million per year to approximately $140 million per year. One of the things being talked about is looking at competitive equity legislation (additional money in addition to scholarships) and giving more latitude to conferences to make decisions within conferences but not necessarily between conferences.
   b. Had a presentation from an exercise physiologist about over-training. This is largely in reaction to things that happened in Iowa over the summer. It illustrates that there may be a need for some educational processes to be put into place.
c. Heard a presentation from Janet Judge regarding social media. There is talk about guidelines that institutions have put in place for the student-athletes regarding what they place on their social media sites.

d. Heard about some of the things coming out of the presidential retreat. There were four major issues being dealt with and the FARs were asked to provide feedback for the presidents.

1.) Discussion of increasing the amount of a full grant-in-aid (covers tuition, fees, room, board and books) to get closer to the full cost of attendance. There seems to be support for a cap of $2,000 and if an athlete is on a partial scholarship, that cap would be prorated. There are issues, depending on whether or not the institution has the money to do it. Some people feel student-athletes already receive significant money and perhaps there are other ways to get that additional money. The issue is still being discussed but it seems there will be an allowance beyond the full grant-in-aid.

2.) There was some discussion about allowing multi-year grants-in-aid. Currently they are issued year-to-year. Allowing multi-year grants-in-aid could reduce some of the appeal process when grants are taken away. The FARs feel there need to be guidelines and standards set for this, including conditions at the level of the NCAA about when a multi-year grant-in-aid could be terminated.

3.) Discussion about grayshirting (student-athletes who finish high school a semester early and then come to college in the spring – primarily in the sport of Football). The intent is that they could still come but not be able to participate in practices. This could impact some of the international students more in that area. This is still under discussion.

4.) Discussion about tighter restrictions on oversigning. Some sports (primarily Football) sign far more student-athletes than they keep. After seeing them and then not keeping them, it eliminates the possibility of the student-athlete getting an opportunity at another institution.

e. The Committee on Academic Performance is looking at:

1.) High school athletes are completing their core courses but a large number are in the last semester of their senior year. The committee wants to make sure that their meeting core courses happens in a more normal progression and is recommending adding an additional math or science course. This is directed at academic preparation.

f. The NCAA has two levels of violations – secondary and major. There seems to be quite a bit that fall in the middle. Looking at a multi-tiered violation structure to address repeat offenders but it would
S. Binegar mentioned that as for the cost of attendance discussion, it may be that conferences will be able to decide on their own. M. Streb said if it were to stay at a conference level that would help us. B. Hemphill then asked if athletics directors in conferences such as the MAC, WAC, and Mountain West are saying the same thing. S. Binegar said in sports other than Football, that probably is happening. M. Streb stated his belief that this will happen but hopes it stays at the conference level.

J. Rintala said many of our athletes are not on full grants-in-aid. B. Hemphill then asked if there is any way to stop this but J. Rintala reported that the presidents will be voting yet this month. S. Binegar said the mid-major schools are touching base and trying to say the same thing.

**IV. Committees**

A. Equity/Diversity – D. Tidrick

D. Boughton provided a status report on the interest survey. She will be meeting with Karen Baker tomorrow to see what kind of partnership we can set up there and determine how best to move forward. To clarify for the Board members, D. Boughton explained that the Athletics Department is looking at doing a new interest survey to satisfy the third prong of Title IX. We must identify who will pay for the survey. D. Tidrick then asked if the University does not commit to fund it, will we still do it? Yes but we need to finalize it.

B. Budget – P. Bauer

P. Bauer stated there is no committee report but action will be taken under New Business.

C. Student-Athlete Wellbeing – D. Changnon

No report but would like to have the subcommittee stay after this meeting to set a first meeting. T. Bishop added that he would ask all subcommittees to do the same thing today.

D. External Affairs – T. Latham

He and Shelley reviewed the list of contributions Athletics provides each year to make sure the needs of the community are being met. Provided a list of donations requested and fulfilled for last academic year.

**V. New Business**

A. FY12 Gymnastics/Wrestling Ticket Prices – D. Boughton

D. Boughton began discussion by pointing out that there is no increase or decrease in the ticket prices from last year. S. Binegar added that both Gymnastics and Wrestling have a variance in the number of home meets they have each year so it is
difficult to justify raising the ticket prices. She wants to work with the coaches on evening out their home schedules.

TJ Lusher made a motion to approve the FY12 Gymnastics and Wrestling ticket prices as presented. T. Latham seconded the motion. Having no further discussion, the motion was carried.

B. Huskie Pride Initiative – B. Hemphill
Dr. Hemphill began by saying the purpose being the Huskie Pride initiative is to get our students into NIU sweatshirts and out of other schools’ gear. This is the second year for this initiative and is a good way for students and staff from Student Affairs to get out on campus. Students in other schools’ gear are approached and asked if they would like to trade the sweatshirt they are wearing for an NIU sweatshirt. The sweatshirts that are switched are donated but are drycleaned before the donation takes place. They are sent out of this local area so they don’t return to campus. Dr. Hemphill is very excited about this program and noted that more and more students are wearing NIU gear. T. Bishop mentioned that Dean Schoenbachler is echoing that same theme and encourages the faculty, staff and students in the College of Business to wear NIU gear. Dr. Hemphill encouraged anyone from the Athletic Board who would be interested in participating to come to his office and sign out some sweatshirts.

C. Chessick Practice Center – M. Muhlhauser
The Chessick’s gift of $3 million was announced at the September 17 NIU Football game at Soldier Field. Just last weekend at Homecoming, it was announced that there are now 17 leadership donors comprising $7.6 million in gifts thus far. The goal is $9.5 million and there are 14 prospects yet at the six figure and above level. There is another list of prospects ($25,000 to $50,000) who have not even begun to be contacted yet. Athletics will then move to the public brick and paver phase of the campaign. There is a list of approximately 10,000 individuals who will receive an e-mail regarding the campaign.

A review of the architectural renderings of the Chessick Practice Center was then presented. At this time, Dennis and Stacey Barsema have committed to the Hall of Champions. It was noted that the indoor track is not NCAA regulation size so Athletics will be unable to host meets there. Jeffrey and Kimberly Yordon and their family have committed to the Jeffrey and Kimberly Yordon Huskie Pride Plaza. There are 10 pillars at the facility, each being a naming opportunity, and all 10 have been spoken for. Jeff and Doreen Eckmann have committed to the student-athlete entrance. There will be three levels of participation for the brick and paver campaign - $250, $500, and $750.

The facility will utilize University steam for heating and all of the necessary piping is available for utilization. There will be no air conditioning but instead a very sophisticated air movement system will be used. A combination of direct and indirect lighting, as well as natural light, is being used inside the facility.
A microsite (www.NIUChessickPracticeCenter.com) is now live as are pages on Facebook and Twitter. The microsite will be updated often so please keep checking back.

Had a great weekend this past weekend as on Saturday at 10:30 there was a brunch at the BAVC to honor the leadership donors. At the conclusion of the brunch, over 200 of our student-athletes were in the hallway to show their appreciation for these individuals. Ken and Ellen Chessick were extremely touched by athletes’ presence. S. Binegar added that on Monday, several of the Athletics administrators received a ‘thank you’ from Ken and Ellen. It is very unusual that a donor would thank us for their donation. At Coach Doeren’s invitation, the Chessicks were invited into the lockerroom postgame and Ken had the opportunity to address the team. He was deeply touched by the number of football players who made it a point to come to them and thank them personally.

M. Streb added that it is important to know that this facility is all privately funded. In response to the request for a total cost figure, M. Muhlhauser stated that once all of the planning is completed, we will know what that figure is.

VI. Announcements/Adjournment

TJ Lusher made a motion to adjourn the meeting. T. Latham seconded the motion. Carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:04pm.

The next meeting of the Athletic Board will be Wednesday, November 16, 2011, at 1pm in Holmes Student Center room #306. The executive committee will meet on Wednesday, November 2, 2011, at 1:30pm in the Athletics Administration Conference Room in Convocation Center #200.