Present: Terry Bishop (chair), Dave Changnon, TJ Lusher, Todd Latham, Don Tidrick, Matt Streb, Jeff Compher, Joe Bittorf, Gretchen Schlabach, Hamid Bateni, John Moulton, Peggy Simonds, LA Noonan, Paul Julion

Guests: Shelley Binegar, Associate AD/External Relations; Christian Spears, Deputy Director of Athletics

I. Call to order – T. Bishop

II. Approval of January 16, 2013 Meeting Minutes

J. Moulton submitted several corrections. J. Bittorf made a motion to approve the January 16, 2013, minutes with corrections. G. Schlabach seconded the motion. Having no further corrections, motion was carried.

III. Introduction of Rod Carey, Head Football Coach

J. Compher introduced Coach Carey. Board members introduced themselves.

IV. Faculty Athletics Representation – M. Streb

A. Report from MAC Winter Joint Committee Meetings
   The MAC FARs have recommended changes to the intraconference transfer rule to the Big Ten model. Student-athletes would lose only one year of eligibility and financial aid instead of permanently.

B. LEaD Huskie program is up and running. Eight student-athletes have been selected as the ‘charter’ members. The Compher’s hosted a dinner at their home this past Sunday for the group. It was an opportunity to explain the program to the student-athletes. Dr. Streb is working on scheduling individual meetings. The MAC commissioner, Dr. Jon Steinbrecher, will be coming to speak to the LEaD Huskies in April.

V. Committees

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

B. Budget – P. Bauer
   No committee report.

C. Student-Athlete Wellbeing – D. Changnon
   D. Changnon reported that he will be meeting with the SAAC (Student-Athlete Advisory Committee) group regarding drug testing policy changes.
VI. New Business

A. FY13 Second Quarter Report
   In the absence of both D. Boughton and P. Bauer, the report was distributed for review only. If, after reviewing the report, there are any questions, please feel free to contact D. Boughton. D. Changnon observed that the information presented in the report looks good, especially when compared to the State of Illinois's financial status.

B. Orange Bowl Update – J. Compher
   J. Compher provided an update on a conference call with the Orange Bowl staff this morning in which the bowl staff complimented NIU as having been the best staff to work with although our staff is half the size of staffs they generally work with.

   Looking back, this was the fifth bowl in a row and that prepared the staff very well for the Orange Bowl. Over 10,000 articles alone were written about NIU Football in December, 2012. The admissions website experienced a large increase in traffic, even during the game. Overall, the University experienced a surge in publicity and visibility. The Athletic Department is working to capitalize on the momentum from the Orange Bowl in terms of admissions, donors, alumni memberships, etc. The Orange Bowl staff was impressed with how NIU managed getting 1300 students in 26 buses to Miami.

   Athletics could not have done this alone and learned that when we work together, we can accomplish anything. When you realize a dream, it makes everything else seem possible.

   J. Compher said he is confident that NIU did not lose money on this experience but the final numbers are not available yet.

C. MAC Meetings Report – J. Compher
   1. ADs voted to extend the contract with the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl through 2019. That now goes to the MAC presidents for approval.
   2. The Little Caesars Pizza Bowl's contract has expired. J. Compher believes, however, that there will still be a bowl in Detroit but it would be run by a different management group. Still working on second agreements with bowls.
   3. Basketball schedule will increase from 16 to 18 conference games.
   4. Relative to volleyball, discussion held about the possibility of bringing the championship back to campus sites. Currently the conference is not happy with the current location so there is discussion about several different options.

D. CPC Update
   In C. Armato’s absence, suggestion was made to look into the possibility of scheduling the next Athletic Board meeting at the Yordon Center to provide the opportunity to look at the construction.
VII. Announcements / Adjournment

A. J. Compher said the University is moving forward on the scoreboard project at Huskie Stadium. Will be seeking approval from the Board of Trustees at their next meeting. Will be adding a new control room, ribbon boards, and a new sound system.

B. Upcoming events – C. Spears
   1. Dr. Will Keim – Sunday, March 3, 2013 – Barsema Hall
      The University typically brings in a speaker to talk to the students before Spring Break about making good choices.
   2. The Victors – Thurs, May 2, 2013 – The Egyptian Theater
      This is an event which Athletics has held for the last three years. Will be sending invitations out to campus and the community.

C. P. Julian mentioned that a video has been done about ‘awareness’ on campus. This was done in partnership with the CHOICES grant. The video should be coming out in the next few weeks.

TJ Lusher made a motion to adjourn the meeting. D. Changnon seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the Athletic Board is Wednesday, March 20, 2013, at 1:00pm in Holmes Student Center room #306. The executive committee will be meeting Wednesday, March 6, 2013, at 1:30pm in the Athletics administration conference room, Convocation Center #200.