Athletic Board  
Wednesday, March 18, 2015  
Holmes Student Center, Room 306, 1pm

Present: David Changnon (Chair), Don Tidrick, Thomas Bough, Andy Small, Matt Streb, Terry Bishop, Randy Napientek, Joe Bittorf, Hamid Bateni, Sarah Johnston-Rodriguez.

Guests: Ryan Sedevie, Assoc AD/Advancement and External Affairs, Debra Boughton, Sr Assoc AD/Finance, Melissa Dawson, Sr. Assoc AD/Director of Student-Athlete Academic Support Services, John Cheney, Sr Assoc AD/Facilities and Event, Jay Vickers, Sr. Assoc AD/Sports Administration, Jerome Rodgers, Sr. Assoc AD/Compliance and Administration, Lisa Stocksdale, Sr. Administrative Assistant.

I. Call to Order – D. Changnon (1:05 pm)

II. Approval of January 21, 2015 Meeting Minutes  
   A. No adjustments noted: T. Bishop moved to approve; Napientek seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

III. Faculty Athletics’ Representative – Matt Streb  
   A. Academic Policy (Informational)  
      The Academic Policy handout outlining Intercollegiate Athletics’ responsibility to promote and protect academic integrity was discussed and approved by the Athletic Board. This policy was developed based on a number of conversations M. Dawson and M. Streb had over the past year with coaches concerning the potential use of student ID’s and passwords. Recent academic fraud events at North Carolina and Syracuse motivated this action. M. Streb stressed to the Board that NIU has not had a problem with this issue and that the proposed policy reflects a proactive approach.

      D. Boughton asked M. Streb what his role is and what the process should look like when Student-Athletes (SA) have a problem with faculty. Per Streb, when a SA has a problem with a faculty member, the student is to meet with their SAASS coordinator. Depending on the circumstances M. Streb may participate in these activities. Streb also stressed that coaches should never contact faculty; communications should come from SAASS. M. Dawson shared that she and Streb meet often to make sure that those involved are the appropriate individuals who should be involved and that decisions are being made among them. T. Bishop asked if this process extends to administrators as he knows of cases where coaches have reached out to the Provost Office. Although SAASS works directly under the Provost, Dawson confirmed that these cases are handled by she and Streb.

   B. Congratulations Dusty Page  
      M. Streb shared the exciting news that Dusty Page is now the 5th SA in Northern history to be awarded the NCA Post Graduate Scholarship. Dusty is a great young man and this award is truly a great honor.

IV. Athletics Department Update – Ryan Sedevie  
   A. Winter Highlights  
      In S. Frazier’s absence, and in addition to a handout that was provided to the Athletic Board, R. Sedevie gave an overview of Athletics Winter Highlights, discussed the dates for Summer Circuit, announced NIU’s Athletics Fundraising
Event on November 7, 2015, confirmed NIU’s Homecoming date for 10/24, and discussed the partnership with NIU Rec Center regarding tennis. This partnership will allow the tennis teams to practice indoors from 12-5pm and allow Rec Sports to rent the courts outside of practice times. Streb mentioned that this was a significant accomplishment and he wanted to make sure Sean was recognized for following through on this initiative as promised when he was hired.

V. ONEXONE Campaign – Jay Vickers
   A. J. Vickers handed out the new Donor Guide to Board members for their review. The ONEXONE is the new theme for this year’s campaign with the goal of increasing HAF members from 1500 to 2000. Donor levels have changed as well as new benefits added based on giving level. NIU’s development team is out meeting with donors, asking them to go up to next level, if possible. The three year pledge commitments were designed to help manage funds and allow Development staff to better cultivate and steward our annual donors. Vickers pointed out that the passes to the Hospitality Tent have changed this year to help curb the amount of non-donors in the tent. Vickers asked the Board to take the time to review the new guide and to let him know if they have any additional questions.

VI. Price Approval – Ryan Sedevie
   A. Basketball pricing for the 2015/16 season remains unchanged. Furthermore, Athletics is introducing a number of basketball ticket packages similar to football, specifically a family package. D. Boughton recognized the Marketing/Ticketing Group for their thoughtfulness in coming up with these package options as well as marketing items such as Kids Day for Women’s Basketball. Sedevie said they are hoping to have more of these targeted days especially those that can be tied into admissions. Sedevie noted that there was a typo on Basketball pricing in that the WBB/VB combo package is selling for $65.00 and not $45.00.

   B. Volleyball comparisons showed that we were 2nd highest in our pricing; Athletics reflected on this situation and decided to decrease pricing, plus added a family pack and introduced a Women’s Basketball and Volleyball combo pack. The energy in Volleyball games is very high and the hope is to recreate this in Women’s Basketball.

   C. Motion to approve both sets of pricing by T. Bishop; Seconded by D. Tidrick; motion carried unanimously.

VII. Committees (Present Goals):
   A. Equity/Diversity – Yolanda King/Debra Boughton/Jerome Rodgers
      a. Y. King mentioned that DIG meets monthly and the group continues to work on revisions to the Action Plan; will be finalized soon. A summary of that plan will be brought to the Athletic Board Meeting in April or May.

   B. Budget – Terry Bishop/Debra Boughton
      a. Cheney informed the members that the turf for Huskie Stadium is out for bid and should be replaced in May prior to summer camps; funds from
the Maintenance/Repair account will be used to pay this needed upgrade
b. A facilities meeting discussed the IHSA State Football Championships that will occur in DeKalb next fall. This will give NIU and DeKalb another opportunity to shine. T. Bishop said he has some comparisons, based on attending the championship games at Memorial Stadium in Champaign last fall, he can share at a Facilities meeting. Cheney shared that he and J. Vickers are already meeting with others at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

C. Student Athlete Wellbeing – Randi Napientek/ Melissa Dawson
   a. Napientek mentioned the Money Smart events coming up in April; last year there were 60 events and 1400 people attended overall. This year has 105 events. The event website is up and running and Napientek encouraged all SA to attend; Boughton is in favor of these programs.

D. External Relations – Don Tidrick/Ryan Sedevie
   a. Sedevie told the members that sometime near the end of June there will be a marketing summit comprised of community members and campus constituents to identify common goals for athletics.

VIII. New Business
   D. Boughton clarified chair back and bench back football single game pricing for 2015-2016 previously reviewed and approved by the Athletic Board on December 3, 2014. As of 3/19/2015, it was reconfirmed to the Board that there will be no single game sales of these categories.

IX. Upcoming Events
   The Athletic Board was presented with a list of upcoming events

X. Announcements/Adjournment
   D. Tidrick made a motion to adjourn the meeting; T. Bough seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously and meeting adjourned at 2:02 pm.

The next meeting of the Athletic Board is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2015, in the Holmes Student Center room #306 at 1 pm. The executive committee will meet on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 1 pm in Convocation Center, room 200.