Athletic Board  
Wednesday, September 17, 2014  
Holmes Student Center Room #306, 1pm

Present: David Changnon (Chair), Terry Bishop, Bill Cassidy, Sean Frazier, Donald Tidrick, Sarah Johnston-Rodriguez, Matt Streb, Joe Bittorf, TJ Lusher, Yolanda King, Hamid Bateni, Andy Small Thomas Bough

Guests: Debra Boughton, Sr Assoc AD/Finance; Jerome Rodgers, Sr. Assoc AD/Compliance and Administration, Mark Muhlhauser, Assoc AD/Major Gifts; Ryan Sedevie, Assoc AD/Advancement and External Affairs, Melissa Dawson, Sr. Assoc AD/Director of Student-Athlete Academic Support Services, Jay Vickers, Sr. Assoc AD/Sports Administration, Lisa Stocksdale, Sr. Administrative Assistant/Board Secretary

I. Call to Order – D. Changnon(1:04pm) and introduction of all members and guests

II. Approval of June 18, 2014 Meeting Minutes
D. Tidrick provided edits to the June 18, 2014 meeting minutes. Noting these minor corrections and noting no other additions or deletions, the motion to approve was carried unanimously.

III. Faculty Athletics Representative – M. Streb
A. Governance Structure
M. Streb provided an overview of the governance structure informing the Board that there is a proposal on the table. Sean Frazier and Matt Streb are attending the 2014 1A Athletic Director’s Annual Association Meeting in Dallas, Texas on September 21 through September 23, 2014. M. Streb shared that there is a dinner they will be attending on Sunday evening where the topic will center on how the Mid American conference will adjust to the new governance.

B. APR Scores
Jerome Rodgers, Associate AD/Compliance and Administration, Kiera Miller, Assistant Director/Compliance & Student Services, and M. Streb will be submitting the APR scores soon. M. Streb shared that it appears that only one or two teams had a drop from last year.

IV. Athletics Department Update – S. Frazier
A. Athletics Organizational Chart
Introduction of Jay Vickers, Jerome Rodgers, and Lisa Stocksdale were made to the Board. The Athletic Sr. Staff Organizational Chart was reviewed and the Board was informed that this chart was created as a toolkit for the Board to see who is responsible for what.

B. Athletics Strategic Plan
Sr. Staff, Department Heads, and Head Coaches participated in a two day retreat with Bill Carr and Gerald O’Dell, in a planning exercise to initiate the implementation of the Athletics Strategic Plan. The Board will be provided with drafts as they are completed with an expected targeted completion date of the first of the year. The plan will be aligned with the NIU Plan that President Baker is currently developing.
C. Athletics Master Plan
   Athletics conducted an overall view of all facilities and how it plays into recruitment and retention. AECOM was discussed and the first draft will roll out soon and will be shared with the Board.

D. DeKalb Window Clings
   Rick Cerrone and Christian Spears began working on this initiative months ago. The end product has been received well within the community and NIU. Sean pledged to the Board that both he, and wife Rosa, are immersed in the community.

E. Schedule Palooza
   Donna Turner, Associate Director/Athletics Communication, has done a fantastic job with the first Schedule Palooza and more home and home football agreements are to be announced the week of September 22, 2014.

F. The Yard
   The Yard began from an idea to offer alumni, patrons, and fans an enhanced tailgate experience. Packed with a live band, kid’s activities, and a big screen television, the concept, although we had some glitches on opening day, has generally been received well.

G. Head Coach Hire
   S. Frazier made his first Head Coach hire with Tanya Gombera, Head Coach-Women’s Tennis. T. Gombera brings a great amount of energy and passion to the program and we are excited to have her at NIU.

H. Academics
   This summer there was a tremendous amount of effort to keep overall GPA up; it is currently at 3.19. If there is a need to push higher, we will do so.

I. Sodexo
   It has long been known that we did not have adequate service for our patrons to the football stadium, mainly due to the fact that the stadium is not equipped or setup for service. Sodexo, a world leader in service, was integrated within our current staff to help bring the quality of service our patrons expect and hope for.

J. New Basketball Court
   A new basketball court was unveiled on August 19, 2014 to very positive responses as the court is both fan and student friendly. Athletics is in the midst of working on upcoming events welcoming folks in.

K. NCAA Governance
   S. Frazier referred to M. Streb to provide this report. M. Streb shared with the Board that the big reason for the change was due to the amount of money coming into college athletics nationally. The three main issues are Unlimited Meals, Multi-Year Scholarships, and Cost of Attendance. NIU Athletics initiated the Grab-N-Go concept to address Unlimited Meals. J. Rodgers provided information on the number of meals current student athletes already receive. The
“unlimited” meals is somewhat deceiving as student athletes are provided with a lot of opportunities to be fed that is not highlighted by the media. With regard to Multi-Year Scholarships, NIU will move to adopt this concept; in theory we already do so but on a yearly commitment. This will provide a formal four year commitment/contract. M. Streb, with S. Frazier’s confirmation, told the Board that no definite determination has been made concerning Cost of Attendance at this time.

V. Committees
D. Changnon addressed each sub-committee, who the chairs are for each sub-committee and asked the Board to please select, via a handout, their first and second choices to serving on one of the four sub-committees. D. Changnon explained that each sub-committee is made up of board members along with liaisons from Athletics Sr. Staff. The sub-committees play an important role as a resource for S. Frazier. D. Boughton shared that there are many working groups already in place within athletics that the chair, or designated attendee, could be present at to save on time constraints. D. Changnon will email, upon tally completion, which sub-committee members are appointed to based on their submissions. D. Changnon charged the sub-committees to bring to the October Board Meeting two to three goals for the coming year. The sub-committees, and designated chair, are as follows.

A. Equity/Diversity – TJ Lusher
B. Budget – T. Bishop
C. Student-Athlete Wellbeing – R. Napientek
D. External Relations – D. Tidrick

VI. New Business
A. Missed Class – D. Boughton
D. Boughton walked through, via a handout, the Summary of Missed Class Days as it pertains to accuracy. It is a standard that if the team left at a certain time, it is reported on the spreadsheet, however that does not mean a student actually missed a class. D. Boughton indicated that there may be other ways to explain this information and the Board may want to consider that this year.

B. FY15 Athletic Budget – D. Boughton
Athletic Board has review of this handout. S. Frazier, D. Boughton, and Lisa Freeman are to meet and discuss additional ways of moving forward with full disclosure and to truly capture what the financial situation looks like. S. Frazier would like to present a more holistic look at Athletics. Right now we receive $21.00/per credit hour however, we continue to experience a decrease in enrollment which translates to a decrease in student fee revenue. We do have new revenue however, through new television contracts and a higher number of ticket sales. The Yard has additional costs associated with it; however we have made concessions to the Athletics marketing area to support it. D. Boughton shared that a secondary health insurance policy was placed on student-athletes and a partnership with the NCAA occurred putting a cap on the deductible. Additionally, a rider was purchased for high risk student-athletes that have insurance.

TJ Lusher made a motion to approve the FY15 Athletic Budget as presented. D. Tidrick seconded the motion. Having no further discussion, the motion was carried unanimously.
C. FY15 M/WBB Comp Policy – D. Boughton
D. Boughton provided the Board with the M/WBB Comp Policy handout and explained that there is a structure in place as to how we allocate this.

TJ Lusher made a motion to approve the FY15 Athletic Budget as presented. Bill Cassidy seconded the motion. Having no further discussion, the motion was carried unanimously.

D. Presidential Statement on Athletic Policy & Self Regulating Guidelines – D. Boughton
D. Boughton shared with the Board that this policy needs to be updated and athletics will work with both Media Services and S. Frazier on the changes. Additionally, a revised policy and procedure manual will be presented to the Board at the October 15, 2014 meeting.

Athletic Board Executive Committee is responsible for the review and approval of schedules. FY15 was presented to the Executive Committee on September 10, 2014 without any comments.

F. SAASS Updates/Changes – M. Dawson
D. Changnon informed the Board that this topic will be put on the agenda for the October 15, 2014 Athletic Board Meeting.

VII. Announcements / Adjournment

A. R. Sedevie announced that M/WBB tickets went on sale today to the public.
B. R. Sedevie announced our campus engagement piece of the Movie Frozen and the NIU – Arkansas Watch Party being held on Saturday, September 20, 2014 at the HSC Sandburg Auditorium.
C. T. Bough thanked the athletics department for the support and use of the Huskie Stadium for the Marching Band competition being held on Saturday, September 20, 2014. Over 35 high schools bands are participating with families ranging in the 5,000-6,000 attendance level. T. Bough asked for any athletic representatives that can be in attendance to please join them.

J. Bittorf made a motion to adjourn the meeting. D. Tidrick seconded the motion. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.

The next meeting of the Athletic Board is Wednesday, October 15, 2014, in Holmes Student Center room #306 at 1pm. The executive committee will meet on Wednesday, October 08, 2014, at 1:00pm in the Athletics Administration Conference Room in Convocation Center room #200.