Athletic Board  
Wednesday, November 19, 2014 
Holmes Student Center Capital South Room, 1pm  

Present:  David Changnon (Chair), Terry Bishop, Don Tidrick, Joe Bittorf, Hamid Bateni, Yolanda King, Bill Cassidy, Randi Napientek, Sean Frazier, Matt Streb, Jerry Blakemore  

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(1:03pm)and introduction of all members and guests  

II.  Approval of September 17, 2014 Meeting Minutes  
D. Tidrick moved to approve; T. Bishop seconded the motion.  

III.  Faculty Athletics Representative – M. Streb  
A.  Graduate Success Rate  
   M. Streb provided an overview of Graduate Success Rate (GSR) for Northern Illinois University. NIU has the highest GSR rate in the Conference at 89% and is at an all time high for NIU, wherein the previous reported GSR was 85%. With regard to each perspective sport, 13 out of 15 are either at or above the GSR average; football came in at 91% and is ranked eighth in the country. Student athletes graduate at a rate 23% above that of NIU’s undergraduate population and football student athletes graduate 33% above the whole.  

B.  New Governance System  
   M. Streb shared that the Board of Directors is the top level of the new governance system. The real work is completed by those at the Council level and the athletic directors make up 60% of the new governance system. Additionally, the Academic Council membership will be determined soon.  

IV.  Athletics Department Update – S. Frazier  
A.  Fall Sports Update  
   S. Frazier provided the Athletic Board with both a verbal and written recap of Fall Sports to include updates on Football, Women’s and Men’s Soccer, Volleyball, and Women’s Cross Country. It was stated that NIU Volleyball is in the fight to get to tournament and that the team is the number two seed. M. Streb added that there were two volleyball Senior Athletes with a combined 3.95 GPA; one is majoring in accounting and one in finance. S. Frazier also discussed that both student and coach evaluations are in the process and all sport programs will be evaluated in order to take them to the next level.  

   Additionally, he shared that the Athletics Department, in alignment with President Baker’s Triangle Concept, participated in the It’s On Us Campaign, an initiative implemented by the Student Association; the Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) instructor training wherein six (6) Athletic Staff became certified instructors; a symposium with College of Education focused on career trajectory and discussions with College of Business for a similar symposium; and Beyond the
Game which is focused on student-athlete careers and life skills. It was suggested that a presentation be made to the Athletic Board regarding Beyond the Game at the next meeting.

B. Facilities Master Plan

J. Cheney shared and discussed, via a PowerPoint presentation, the recent release of the Master Facilities Plan and addressed any questions from Board members. Cheney shared that this was a six to seven month process involving campus representatives and donors and that there was no cost involved as the Facilities Master Plan evaluation was completely funded by private donations.

C. Athletic Strategic Plan

J. Vickers provided the Board via a handout with a summary of the Strategic Planning exercise as well as a timeline for the final release of the Strategic Plan, the Athletics Mission Statement, and Athletics Vision Statement. J. Vickers stressed to the Board that all Coaches, Department Heads, and Sr. Staff were involved from the initial planning exercise with Carr Sports Consulting, LLC and all wish to remain in the process as we continue to move forward with finalizations.

D. Post Season

D. Boughton informed the Board that as of three to four weeks ago, NIU Football became Bowl eligible and that she had forwarded via email, to the Board members, the Bowl Guide that is being used for the second year. She shared that we are eligible for the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl, Camellia Bowl, Boca Raton Bowl, Popeye’s Bahamas Bowl, and GoDaddy Bowl to name a few. S. Frazier will work on the backend to ensure we are positioned appropriately. D. Boughton and M. Muhlhauser discussed Anthony Travel, our new travel partner, which will hopefully expand to other sport opportunities. All information, including Anthony Travel packages, will be on the website under Bowl Central. T. Bishop asked if there was an explicit pecking order with the new Bowl lineup to which S. Frazier responded that is changes every year. T. Bishop also expressed the prioritization of travel packages given that the Bowl is around the holiday season and there is a concern with airfare being high. S. Frazier explained that the timing is what it is and it comes down to the Sunday after the MAC Championship. He further stated that we budget and manage for all the Bowls but it still is what it is.

V. Committees

D. Changnon asked if any of the sub-committees had anything to report. Yolanda King stated that she had met with Jerome Rodgers and would continue to participate in the Diversity meetings. D. Changnon stated that he attended the Working Group meeting for T. Bishop and would do so again on November 20th. D. Changnon made the offer to Sr. Staff that if there are additional opportunities to bring in Athletic Board members to assist, such as with the Strategic Plan, please feel free to make the offer.

VI. New Business

A. Ticket Pricing Flexibility

R. Sedevie discussed the current language in the Athletic Board policy as being very broad and that complimentary tickets only refer to Football and Basketball and not all other sports. New language was sent to the Athletic Board prior to this meeting and it was asked that the Board
please vote on implementing the new language. T. Bishop discussed that the greatest concern is protecting the interest of all. D. Boughton shared that this issue comes up every week in ticket discussions and needs to be voted on quickly. Upon further discussions, J. Blakemore proposed that the language be kept simple, keep original paragraph, and rewrite the second paragraph to read:

*The Board hereby authorizes the Athletic Director, or his/her designee, in the best interest of the University and market trends, to make modifications to ticket prices. A post-season summary of said modifications will be provided by the Athletic Director to the Athletic board on a regular basis.*

The revisions were agreed upon by the Board members, however, the Board no longer had quorum, thereby a formal vote could not be completed at this time. The next item on the Agenda involved Football Season Ticket Price Approval, however, as the Board no longer had quorum, this was tabled until next meeting. D. Changnon proposed for the sake of time constraints, that a supplemental meeting be called for Athletic Board members on December 3rd for the sole purpose of voting on the Ticket Pricing Flexibility and the Football Season Ticket Price Approval. All were in favor and D. Changnon informed the members he would setup the meeting and send out the invite. Additionally, it was agreed that the new language would be sent to Internal Audit for review prior to the December 3 meeting. D. Boughton will work with J. Blakemore on this aspect.

B. Policy & Procedures

T. Bishop stated that revisions of the Athletic Board Policy and Procedures is long overdue. D. Changnon advised the Board that a meeting was set for December to begin this process. It was proposed that a provision be added to the Policy for such times when quorum is not met. T. Bishop said that a discussion had taken place in the past regarding electronic voting but said the auditors instructed that due to the Open Meetings Act, this could not be approved. J. Blakemore shared that the Open Meetings Act does not apply to this Board and that the Policy could be revised to be very explicit that it has been authorized by the Board for electronic voting when quorum is not met.

C. FY 14 & FY 15 – D. Boughton

D. Boughton provided the Board with handouts and asked that these be reviewed and to let her know if they had any questions.

D. SAASS Updates/Changes – M. Dawson

D. Changnon informed the Board that this topic will be put on the agenda for the next Athletic Board Meeting due to time constraints.

VII. Announcements / Adjournment.

D. Tidrick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. T. Bishop seconded the motion. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

The next meeting of the Athletic Board is Wednesday, December 17, 2014, in Holmes Student Center room #306 at 1pm. The executive committee will meet on Wednesday, December 3, 2014, at 2:00pm in Davis Hall, room 119.