**Athletic Board**  
**Wednesday, February 24, 2016**  
Convocation Center, Multi-Purpose Room, 1pm

**Present:** Matthew Streb (Chair), Don Tidrick, Lisa Liberty, Joe Bittorf, Bill Cassidy, Mary Burns, Tom Bough, Lauren Gierman, Peyton Gunnison, Pete Garrity, Glenn Roby, Andy Small, Randi Napientek, Sean Frazier, Laura Sala (on behalf of Jerry Blakemore)

**Guests:** Ryan Sedevie, Sr. Assoc AD/Advancement and External Affairs, Debra Boughton, Sr. Assoc AD/Finance, Melissa Dawson, Sr. Assoc AD/Director of SAASS, John Cheney, Sr. Assoc AD/Facilities and Event, Jerome Rodgers, Sr. Assoc AD/Compliance and Administration, Lisa Stocksdale, Sr. Administrative Assistant

I. **Call to Order** – M. Streb (1:04 pm)

II. **Approval of December 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes.** J. Bittorf moved to approve; D. Tidrick seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

III. **M. Streb moved agenda items IHSA Recap and Basketball Ticket Prices to the March 23, 2016 Athletic Board meeting because they were not ready to be presented at this meeting.**

IV. **F.A.R. Report – M. Streb**
   A. **Congratulations to eight student-athletes who were selected for the LEaD Huskies program.** This group of eight has a combined GPA of 3.9 and participated in a dinner with M. Streb and S. Frazier as well as a one-on-one meeting with M. Streb.

   Revisions to the Athletic Board Policy and Procedure Manual will be the main focus of the March Athletic Board meeting. The Athletic Board Executive Committee has a set of proposed changes for the Board to consider. M. Streb will send those proposed changes to Board members via email. At the March Board meeting, we will discuss those proposed changes as well as any other suggestions or comments that Board members want to propose.

V. **Athletics Department Update – S. Frazier**
   A. **Winter Highlights**

   A handout was provided to the Athletic Board listing athletic highlights for our winter programs. Coach Carlsgen is bringing new philosophies and new energy to the women's basketball program while our student-athletes continue to be the best in the league academically; high praise goes out to our student-athletes as well as the SAASS department.

   B. **Victor E. Ball (Student-athlete video shared with Board)**

   While there were some limitations that came about for the Victor E. Ball and we were not able to meet our $225,000 revenue goals, we did raise a little more than $130,000 toward cost of attendance. Moving forward, the event will be held in spring 2017 and we have a good base of interested donors for the next event.

   C. **NCAA and MOAA Diversity and Inclusion Award (video shared with Board)**

   NIU was recently named the winner of the NCAA and MOAA Diversity and Inclusion Award where S. Frazier and J. Rodgers traveled to Texas to receive the award along with President Baker and M. Streb in attendance.
D. Football Signing Day
NIU Athletics recently held the 3rd annual Football Signing Day event at Acquaviva and the event sold out with 200 in attendance. It was very successful and has put a face on the program.

VI. New Business
A. U.S. Cellular game has been set for November 9 vs. Toledo. Since September, 2015, NIU Athletics worked with the Illinois Sports Facilities Authorities (Manny Sanchez and Jeff Yordon) and the Chicago White Sox organization to make this event a reality. This would be the first ever football game in U.S. Cellular and the field fits to 6 ½ feet on closest end and holds up to 42,000 seats with 30,000 viable seats. NIU will be responsible for game cost (as in home games) but will receive up $500,000 in ticket revenue then a 50/50 split with ISFA as well as a 50/50 split for premium areas. NIU students will be comped for this game and transportation options are currently in the discussion stage. This game will also be included in season ticket holder packages.

The reasons behind this game include the reality of poor weeknight attendance, exposure for NIU, and financial gain.

B. Bowl Financials: 5 year snapshot handout was provided to the Board. This year’s main discrepancy from prior years was the fact that passports were purchased for football student-athletes and band travel/airfare was an escalated cost this year.

C. Congratulations to Payton Gunson, one of five Forward Together Forward scholarship award recipients this year. P. Garrity informed S. Frazier that he is involved with the Alumni Award Banquet for scholarship recipients and asked if it would make sense for athletics to be a part of this since we too have a number of scholarship awards. J. Vickers will follow-up with Pete.

VII. Liaison Reports:
A. Diversity Integration Group (D.I.G.) – Yolanda King/Chaired by Jerome Rodgers & Debra Boughton
   a. Six (6) goals have been identified to complete by fiscal year end to include creation of mission statement and LGTB training. D.I.G. meeting scheduled for today at 3pm if any Board members wish to attend.

B. Finance & Facilities– Joe Bittorf/Chaired by Debra Boughton and John Cheney;
   No updates to provide as group has not met with budget issues still looming.

C. Student Staff Services– Randi Napientek/ Chaired by Melissa Dawson
   a. NIU was in the forefront of the MAC Summit of Mental Health, which was well attended and a successful event. Moving forward this working group is developing a questionnaire to help identify students who may be in need of assistance or help.

D. External Relations – Don Tidrick/Chaired by Ryan Sedevie
   a. Mission 6,000 promotion during the last football season was addressed with regard to the outcome that the students did not meet the requirements of this promotion. However, the 86 students who did attend all six games will be given a Terrace spot at the Yordon Center for the Spring game, two (2) football season tickets upon graduation, and
$100 was added to their student account as an appreciation for their loyalty.

VII. Announcements/Adjournment

Joe Bittorf made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Don Tidrick seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously and meeting adjourned at 3:01 pm.

The next meeting of the Athletic Board is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, in the Convocation Center, Multi-Purpose Room at 1 pm. The executive committee scheduled to meet on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 1 pm in Convocation Center, room 200 has been cancelled.