Athletic Board
Wednesday, September 16, 2015
Holmes Student Center, Illinois Room, 1pm

Present: Matthew Streb (Chair), Don Tidrick, Lisa Liberty, Joe Bittorf, Josephine Umoren, Yolanda King, Bill Cassidy, Mary Burns, Tom Bough, Lauren Gierman, Pete Garrity, Glenn Roby, Andy Small, Randi Napientek, Sean Frazier, Jerry Blakemore, Michael Agro, Tyler Denham

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. Welcome and introductions. S. Frazier introduced Lisa Carlsen/Head Coach Women’s Basketball and Adrian Meyers/Head Coach Cross Country to the Athletic Board. M. Streb provided both coaches with an explanation of the Athletic Board’s purpose and organizational setup. Both coaches were welcomed to campus and left the meeting.

III. Approval of May 20, 2015 Meeting Minutes
A. Noted: Y. King noted one correction. J. Bittorf moved to approve; A. Small seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Basketball Ticket Comp Policy
A. An electronic vote was conducted for the approval of Basketball Ticket Comp Policy; Vote reflected 13-0 in support with 3 members not voting

V. Revised Athletic Board Language – M. Streb
A. D. Changnon stepped down as Athletic Board Chair due to his commitment and time constraints as a member of the Program Prioritization Task Force. President Baker requested that the FAR become the Athletic Board Chair. With this revision, the appointment of the President’s Representative would no longer be required. Revised language was presented to College Council by Patricia Erickson with a first reading to be at this week’s upcoming meeting and the second reading to take place at the meeting following. M. Streb stepped out of the room for the current Athletic Board members to officially approve the change to make the FAR the Chair. J. Bittorf motioned to approve; D. Tidrick seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

VI. New Business
A. Athletic Board Policy and Procedures – M. Streb
   The AB Policy and Procedure Manual has not been reviewed in a long time. Y. King, D. Tidrick, D. Boughton, and L. Stocksdale will meet monthly during the Executive Athletic Board meetings to begin review and appropriate revisions.

B. Missed Class Report – M. Dawson
   M. Dawson presented the Board with a list of missed class days for all seventeen sports. Coaches submit potential missed class days to SAASS at the beginning of every semester with actual days submitted at the end of each semester.
C. SAASS Annual Report, first time to ever be produced, was shared with the Athletic Board. Discussions currently underway with the Provost office regarding “grades first” and training for educators/faculty to assist students in reaching the goal of 3.2 GPA or higher. M. Streb stressed that coaches do not reach out to professors at any given time; any contact with professors is made either by M. Streb or M. Dawson.

D. Concussion Protocol – J. Cheney
This initiative began with the autonomous conferences and then spread to all conferences. NIU has adopted a checklist and concussion protocol policy as well as providing coaches with educational sessions. The policy will be reviewed annually with all coaches, but it was noted that each case is treated separately and the policy is not meant to be universal for all student-athletes as it would depend on the severity of the individual case.

E. Program Prioritization – D. Boughton
Athletics has submitted all information to the task force to include programs, revenue generation, and marketing. Athletics already has many metrics in place which will help with the prioritization. Each program will be addressed and athletics will participate fully in this program. It was noted that to be Division 1 members, NIU Athletics has to have sixteen (16) sport programs.

F. FY16 Budget – D. Boughton
Currently in a holding pattern regarding state budget announcements however, Athletics has proactively looked at areas that can be managed more effectively and some areas have already been revamped to assist with budget constraints.

G. Cost of Attendance – J. Rodgers & D. Boughton
Discussions over cost of attendance began in 2009-10 academic year. In 2010-11, a stipend model was developed but this posed a challenge as to which sports would use this model. In 2014-15, Cost of Attendance was adopted to cover any institution gap in payment. NIU was faced with some challenges and a decision to be made. In working with Financial Aid, Compliance, Bursar Office, and the NIU Athletics Business Office, NIU opted into Cost of Attendance when it was supported by the MAC. From this decision, the Victor E. Ball was one initiative that was developed to help support the annual cost for this shortfall.

VII. F.A.R. Report – M. Streb
A. Streb and Frazier will attend the Division 1A FAR and Division 1A Director of Athletics meetings this weekend in Dallas along with attending the MAC dinner on Sunday night. Items addressed included weather closure policies and a potential transfer policy preventing the recruitment of any student-athlete convicted of domestic violence.

VIII. Athletics Department Update – S. Frazier
A. 2015-2018 Strategic Plan
The 2015-18 NIU Athletics Strategic Plan is the road map to what athletics hopes to achieve. It is the department’s plan, one that will be reviewed annually to ensure it is folded into the University Strategic Plan and our goals are being met.

B. 2014-15 Annual Report
The Athletic Board was asked to review the 2014-15 Annual Report as it touched on all areas of revenue generation as well as each individual sport program where nine are in the top half of our conference.
C. 2014-15 Year in Review
A comprehensive document of all areas within athletics from administration, academics, marketing, and finance to name a few.

IX. Liaison Reports:

A. Diversity Integration Group (D.I.G.) – Yolanda King/Chaired by Jerome Rodgers & Debra Boughton
   a. D.I.G. recently completed the final draft of the Diversity Inclusion Action Plan for NIU Athletics which was presented to the Athletic Board during the September 16, 2015 Athletic Board meeting. The plan identified guiding principles and was modeled after President Baker’s triangle model.

B. Finance & Facilities – Pending Athletic Board Liaison/Chaired by Debra Boughton and John Cheney
   a. D. Boughton shared that this working group focuses on campus policies, facilities, and risk management and invited anyone who was interested in attending, to come to their next meeting on September 17 at 2:30pm in the Convocation Center, Room 200.

C. Student Staff Services – Randi Napientek/Chaired by Melissa Dawson
   a. R. Napientek and M. Dawson partnered with Dr. Paul Wright to provide a counselor in the Yordon Center for two hours per week as a triage concept for student-athletes. This partnership stemmed from the MAC being a leader in addressing student-athlete mental health.

D. External Relations – Don Tidrick/Chaired by Ryan Sedevie
   a. Don, as the Athletic Board liaison for the External Relations working group, has been very impressed with the energy of this committee. All members involved continually focus on community, student, and campus engagement as well as enhanced communication between student-athletes and campus.
   b. NIU Athletics has engaged in a number of meetings with student leadership groups and will also be incorporating NIU constituents into the many radio show spotlights during football and basketball seasons to help promote NIU.

X. Announcements/Adjournment
Tidrick made a motion to adjourn the meeting; A. Small seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously and meeting adjourned at 2:44 pm.

The next meeting of the Athletic Board is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, in the Holmes Student Center room #306 at 1 pm. The executive committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 1 pm in Convocation Center, room 200.