

Athletic Board
Wednesday, September 14, 2016
Convocation Center, Multi-Purpose Room, 1pm

Present: Matthew Streb (Chair), Peter Garrity, Josephine Umoren, Thomas Bough, Yolanda King, Andy Small, Glenn Roby, Joe Bittorf, Mary Burns, Sarah Johnston-Rodriguez, Bill Cassidy, John Cheney, Mark Groza, Sean Frazier, Randi Napientek

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

- I. Call to Order – M. Streb (1:04 pm)
- II. Approval of April 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes. P. Garrity moved to approve; G. Roby seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.
- III. New member orientation/Org chart
- IV. Faculty Athletics Representative – M. Streb
M. Streb gave a brief overview of the purpose for the Athletic Board, created as a liaison between the Athletic Department and the University. There will be a total of four Athletic Board Meetings with agendas to follow.

M. Streb apprised the group that the Policies & Procedures Manual is currently undergoing the 1st read with University Council.

Additionally, Program Prioritization reports were released in May, and are currently under review by the President.
- V. Athletic Department Update
S. Frazier commented on the national news regarding the NCAA’s decision to relocate championships from North Carolina due to the state’s inability to meet certain statutes promoting inclusion. He also reminded the Athletic Board members that NIU Athletics won the NCAA and MOAA Diversity and Inclusion Award.

NCAA Golf site visits have been taking place at Rich Harvest Farms. The Championship will be aired on the Golf Channel, which will bring great exposure for the University.

S. Frazier brought to the group’s attention his recent Q&A Video, specifically in regards to conference expansion within the Big 12. Goals for future conversations on Big 12 expansion: work on financial sustainability, the health of the institution, the health of the state, and alumni relations.

Chi-town Showdown updates. R. Sedevie estimates total ticket sales at roughly 6,000, with approximately 2,500 single-game tickets sold. There will be student buses in addition to a season-ticket bus to transport fans to and from the game. Athletics is currently working with Transportation on details.

S. Frazier updated the group on the Facility Master Plan, which is currently at a standstill with the state impasse.

VI. Intercollegiate Athletics in the News: The Baylor Case

VII. Liaison Reports

- a. Diversity Integration Group (D.I.G.) – Y. King/D. Boughton/J. Rodgers
J. Rodgers presented a PowerPoint on the D.I.G.'s progress toward Title IX education. All sports programs are required to attend a Title IX session, which addresses consent, the law, and reporting in terms of Sexual Harassment and Misconduct. Currently 5 of the 17 programs have attended as well as the entire Athletic Department staff and coaches.
- b. Finance and Facilities –J. Bittorf/D. Boughton/J. Cheney
Lesslie Erickson named the new Business Manager in the reorganization of the Athletic Business Office. Updates to facilities include a new wrestling mat and updated vault pit. J. Bittorf proposed the concept of pre-loaded debit cards, which would be primarily for travel. Pre-loaded debit cards would be a step forward in cash management and accountability for individuals. Accounting is looking into whether they have the internal support to make this is plausible.
- c. Student Staff Services –R. Napientek/M. Dawson
R. Napientek discussed the availability of counselors for students 3 to 4 days a week. Please refer questions and interested parties to M. Dawson. A question was raised on the accessibility of this information for students; M. Dawson indicated that the program is very well-known. M. Dawson also spoke on the Employee Assistance Program and reiterated the importance of staff to take care of themselves, too.
- d. External Affairs – M. Groza/R. Sedevie
Importance of student/community/facility engagement stressed. M. Groza discussed the possibilities of re-routing the bus to encourage Basketball attendance.

VIII. Athletic Department Reports

- a. Strategic plan update – critical issue #1 – Cheney
There are four critical issues outlined in the Strategic Plan. J. Cheney placed focus on Critical issue #1 (handout provided): Encourage constituents through collaboration, service, events and success. Design and implement department-wide planning practice that ensure the effective alignment of priorities and resources. J. Cheney discussed the four goals and provided updates on the status of the department in reaching those goals. Stress was placed on communication, relationships with IHSA, YMCA and Learfield, quarterly Athletic Town Halls, and the updated Emergency Response Plans/Emergency Response Teams.
- b. Prior year IPP review – Rodgers
J. Rodgers presented the IPP website which depicted NIU's APR ratings. NIU needs to be above 930 and its sports are well above that threshold. Additionally, NIU has fewer students than its MAC counterparts. The IPP can be a very valuable tool for making comparisons on academic, staffing, and financial metrics, although there is some question about the accuracy of the data.
- c. SAASS academic report – Dawson
M. Dawson updated the group on the Student Academic numbers from the previous fiscal year. NIU achieved a record high overall GPA of 3.14, however the goal SAASS is aiming for is 3.20.

- d. FY budget report – Boughton
 - D. Boughton presented charts representing the breakdown of the FY16 Funding Sources and allocation of funds. In FY16, the Athletics program spent more money than was received.

D. Boughton also conveyed that the football season tickets are considered fringe benefits, and as they are not available for sale, they are taxable. Complimentary single game tickets for Athletic Board members are available, but can only be obtained one business day prior to the event.

- e. Fair Labor Standards Act update - Boughton
 - D. Boughton reviewed the Department of Labor FLSA Changes. If all eligible employees were to see these changes, the cost to the department would be an additional \$225,000 annually.

IX. Announcements/Adjournment

- a. The November meeting date has been moved to November 30th at 1:00 pm; the topic will be “Student-Athlete Well-Being”.
- b. A. Small made a motion to adjourn the meeting; M. Groza seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously and meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.