



## ATHLETIC BOARD MEETING

April 18, 2018 – 1:00 pm

**Present:** Mark Groza (Chair), Brian McCormick, Sarah Johnston-Rodriguez, Joe Bittorf, Mary Burns, Vicky Nay, Glenn Roby, Josephine Umoren, Thomas Bough, Pete Garrity, Sean Frazier, Aubrie Purtell

**Guests:** TJ Feuerbach, Sr. Assoc. AD/Development & Revenue Generation; Randi Napientek, Associate Director of SAASS; Lisa Stocksdale, Sr. Assist. AD/Human Resources & Donor Relations; John Cheney, Sr. Assoc. AD/Internal Operations; Debra Boughton, Sr. Assoc. AD/Finance & Operations/SWA; Scott Foelske, Director of Compliance

- I. **Call to Order** – M. Groza called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.
- II. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** – B. McCormick moved to approve; J. Bittorf seconded; motion carried unanimously.
- III. **Faculty Athletics Representative** – M. Groza directed the group’s attention to the Athletic Board Policies and Procedures Manual, pointing out a highlighted section of the current policy which states, “In particular, the athletic department must adhere to the following policy regarding finals week competition: No athletic contests may be scheduled beginning one (1) day prior to the onset of finals week and ending with the last scheduled finals unless it is a competition due to or resulting from conference affiliation, NCAA tournament, or a bowl game. Athletic contests scheduled two (2) days prior to finals week must be held on NIU’s campus. Student-athletes are not permitted to travel for an athletic contest until they have completed their final exams.” This particular section bears pertinence on the topic for discussion as the Men’s Basketball team was recently given an opportunity to play a revenue generating bye game within driving distance on a Saturday prior to finals week. The location would be in Minneapolis; M. Groza felt this was not that far off from a “home” game based on the drive time there/back, and the potential revenue would be approximately \$80-100,000.

J. Umoren suggested that the team prepare for their final exam(s) prior and in advance to departing for the contest. T. Bough expressed concern as the Men’s Basketball team has had the lowest GPA across the board. S. Frazier commented that the Men’s Basketball team earned a 2.8 GPA this past semester, while the cumulative GPA for all of Athletics was 3.2, remarking that he was not concerned with the team’s academics from one game, one time. R. Napientek noted that the study tables and tutors are not available on the weekends, and that they usually have all sports teams complete their study/tutor time early to midweek prior to finals week, so having a game on a Saturday would not impact the student-athletes from this perspective. M. Groza also pointed out that the intent is not to change the policy, merely to ask the group to make an exception in this one instance. T. Bough made a motion for a one-time exception; Vicky Nay seconded; motion carried unanimously.
- IV. **Athletics Department Update** – S. Frazier provided a brief update on the current progress of the spring sports programs (handout provided). So far, the weather has played a lot of havoc, causing several date and time changes. Women’s Golf is currently hosting the MAC Championships today through Sunday in Naperville. The Track program continues to perform, exceeding expectations.

S. Frazier also discussed the success of the Victor E. Ball, though he was unable to provide final numbers to the group yet. The new location at NIU Naperville was very well received, and the event boasted several riveting guests including Bill Wennington, Bill Buckner, Dan Hampton and Barry Rozner. The auction is still up and running; Athletics has/will be reaching out to those who did not win and offering them alternate items still available for direct purchase. The auction alone has raised over \$70,000. G. Roby gave L. Stocksdale kudos for putting on such a great event.

S. Frazier asked the group if they had any questions. J. Bittorf asked what NIU's status is in regards to E-Sports, wondering if these were considered part of Athletics. S. Frazier indicated that there have been talks, however the current answer is no; E-Sports is currently a club overseen by Anne Kaplan. S. Frazier remarked that he would like to incorporate E-Sports into Athletics' programs, noting that it could provide an opportunity for introverts to interface with Athletics. J. Bittorf asked if E-Sports are under any NCAA regulations. S. Frazier responded that the NCAA is constantly evolving, so it is something to definitely keep an eye on.

P. Garrity asked S. Frazier about the reenergizing of the Letterman's Club. S. Frazier answered that Brad Hoey is leading the front on the revitalization of the Varsity Club, and suggested having Brad come to an upcoming AB meeting to talk with the group. P. Garrity remarked that he would be happy to help on the Alumni side of things if Athletics needs any assistance.

S. Frazier also updated the group on the transition of Jerome Rodgers from the Athletics Senior Administration. His replacement has been selected, but details of the new hire are not yet ready release. S. Frazier did note to the group that the selected candidate has strong ties to the Compliance side of things, and that they are very excited about the level of talent and expertise this candidate possesses. J. Bittorf asked if Athletics usually looks internally for replacements, to which S. Frazier indicated that, yes they do, however high turnover makes internal hiring more difficult.

- V. **Topics for Discussion – Meeting Schedule / Topic to discuss (2018-2019)** – M. Groza wanted to see if the group was still good with the 1/4 format for AB meetings. T. Bough said that he loves the format and feels the meetings are very action-packed. The only question he had was whether the meeting time could be moved to 2:00-4:00pm. The group did not seem to have any issues with moving the time, thus M. Groza indicated that he would tentatively pencil the meetings from 2:00-4:00pm in September/November/February/April. P. Garrity agreed that we should stick with 4 meetings, and if needed another once can be thrown in at a later date.

VI. **Liaison Reports:**

- a. ***Diversity Integration Group (D.I.G.)*** – Y. King/ S. Frazier

No updates.

- b. ***Finance and Facilities*** – J. Salmon/ D. Boughton/ J. Cheney

The group met sporadically; current budget situation is holding back many projects. The Convocation Center will be getting a new video board in late August. The marquee board will also be replaced. Additionally, Athletics is working with the Nelson family on acquiring donations to upgrade the Nelson suite prior to the next basketball season.

P. Garrity asked about the Naming Rights. J. Cheney answered that they did not receive any bids worth consideration and have reengaged with those who seemed interested. P. Garrity asked if any of these individuals/groups were truly interested and came in at the right price if we would have to go through the bid process again. J. Cheney indicated that this is likely the route that we would have to go, but not necessarily the case.

- c. ***Student Staff Services*** – J. Umoren/ M. Dawson/ L. Stocksedale

No updates.

- d. ***External Affairs*** – G. Roby/ R. Sedevie/ T. Feuerbach

There are currently two groups engaged in the Apparel RFP; Athletics is waiting on final offers. April 28<sup>th</sup> is the date of the Huskie Bowl and Block party, as well as the deadline for Season Ticket renewals. Iowa, Florida State and BYU ticket purchase opportunities will be available for HAF members coming up.

Other than those few updates, G. Roby remarked that there has not been a lot of activity since the last meeting.

VII. **Athletic Department Reports:**

- a. **2017 Quick Lane Bowl – Financial Report** – D. Boughton discussed the Bowl game, commenting that a Bowl game could not have come at a better time financially for NIU Athletics. She provided a handout with summaries of the past four Bowl game expenses and revenue. The current numbers for the Quick Lane Bowl are not finalized, but should be relatively close. T. Bough asked why the home expenses/equipment costs were higher this year. D. Boughton noted that Athletics is responsible for feeding the team during dining hall closures, as well as paying for various entertainment to enhance the experience for the student-athletes.
- b. **Men and Women’s basketball ticket prices** – Ticket prices for Men and Women’s basketball will not be changing. J. Cheney indicated that the only change will be that senior citizens will no longer be able to purchase *premium seating* at discounted rates. The Women’s Basketball Season Ticket prices are set at a great value of \$50, which is good for 19 home games. Combos will also be available, including multi-sport and Huskie Pack.
- c. **End of the year Compliance presentation** – S. Foelske provided an overview on Compliance, pointing out the forms and educational materials which can be found on the NIU Huskies website. Some of the tools used by Compliance include email distribution, JumpForward, CARA logs, and PeopleSoft. JumpForward is used a lot by Compliance for monitoring student-athlete activity. CARA logs are schedules of all athletic activities (meetings, practice, conditioning, games, etc.), which each coach is required to submit weekly to the Compliance office/student-athletes. Changes to these logs must be made at least 24 hours in advance. PeopleSoft is used to observe the records and registration of student-athletes to better track of their eligibility.

S. Foelske also discussed some of the educational efforts the Compliance office has taken. They meet with the SA’s both at the beginning and end of the year, send out monthly newsletters and provide education sessions for all new employees.

S. Foelske went over some Compliance quick facts regarding waivers, financial aid and violations/infractions. He noted that so far this year NIU has had a handful of infractions, and can typically expect five to ten per year. M. Groza remarked that as a representative from the MAC infractions committee, violations are not necessarily based on the number but on the type of infraction, and from his perspective NIU is doing very well.

G. Roby asked who has access to JumpForward. S. Foelske answered that the coaching staff has access so they may enter their recruit information, however they can only access their own sport program. Compliance has access to all records through JumpForward.

- d. **NCAA Tool Kit Best Practice/ Sexual Violence Attestation Requirements** – D. Boughton provided a PowerPoint presentation on the NCAA Board of Governors Policy on Campus Sexual Violence and NIU’s Best Practices Implementation. The policy requires the president, athletics director and Title IX coordinator to declare annually that the department is fully knowledgeable and compliant with the institutional policies and processes regarding sexual violence. These attestations are due annually in May.

Athletics is using the NCAA Sexual Violence Prevention Tool Kit as a guide this year, and have come up with over 170 action items to meet the five focus areas: Leadership, Collaboration, Compliance, Education and Student-Athlete Engagement. D. Boughton briefly summarized some of the accomplished action steps and goals for the future. One of the goals, to complete and implement the

student-athlete/staff relationship policy, is currently under review with the OGC. G. Roby asked if the Title IX online training the student-athletes participate in was available to all of NIU. D. Boughton responded yes, there is both a student module and a staff module available online.

- e. 2018-2021 Strategic planning update – D. Boughton provided an update to the group on the current status of the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan. Beverly and Associates met with several units in Athletics over the course of the past few weeks, including department heads, Sr. Staff, student-athletes, coaches and the Huskie Fan Advisory. Athletics will receive a report back on the results of these meetings from the facilitator by May 4<sup>th</sup>. D. Boughton indicated that she felt this plan would be different than previous ones, possibly being more “theme” based. She noted that she would have more information by the next AB meeting. S. Frazier remarked that D. Boughton is doing a wonderful job leading on this initiative, and that he is excited to see what comes from the direct/critical approach that Beverly and Associates brings to the table.

#### VIII. **Announcements**

M. Groza stressed the importance of continuing to communicate with other professors and staff, and thanked the group and the Sr. Staff for their service on this committee.

#### IX. **Closing Remarks/Adjournment**

- a. M. Groza called the meeting to a close at 2:41.