



ATHLETIC BOARD MEETING
February 13, 2019 – 2:00 pm

Present: Mark Groza (Chair), Joe Bittorf, Thomas Bough, Pete Garrity, Mike Konen, Kathy Ladell, Brian McCormick, Michael Oswalt, Erika Pinter, Lara Sala, Josephine Umoren

Guests: Sean Frazier, Assoc. VP and Director of Athletics; Debra Boughton, Sr. Assoc. AD/Finance & Operations/SWA; John Cheney, Exec. Assoc. AD; Melissa Dawson, Sr. Assoc. AD/Director of SAASS; TJ Feuerbach, Sr. Assoc. AD/Development & Revenue Generation; Ryan Sedevie, Sr. Assoc. AD/External Affairs; Courtney Vinson, Sr. Assoc. AD/Sports Administration; Thomas Hammock, Head Football Coach (Introduction only)

- I. **Call to Order** – M. Groza called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm

- II. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** (Nov. 29, 2018) - B. McCormick moved to approve; J. Bittorf seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- III. **Faculty Athletics Representative** – M. Groza
 - a. **Introduction of new Head Football Coach** – Board members went around the room introducing themselves to Coach Hammock. Coach expressed his excitement to being at NIU and what NIU means to him. He briefly discussed the quality of his staff and that they will be sure to represent NIU well and do things the right way. Graduation his players is a priority and sustaining success. He looks forward to having AB members and other Faculty participate in breakfasts with recruits and their families and will be reaching out when visits begin to be set up for next year's recruit through Mark Groza. He expressed how the degree is important for the next 40 years versus some football experiences may only be for the next 4-5 years. Coach concluded by answering questions and expressing how he wants the team and staff to be engaged on campus and for campus to be engaged and attend games.

 - b. **Student-Athlete by major breakdown** - Board bylaws require an annual review of student athlete majors and analysis to avoid clustering. Based on handouts this is not an issue for NIU. There are multiple majors represented and NIU should take pride in supporting the wide array of interests of their student athletes. Some discussion on the challenges of supporting student athletes when they miss multiple classes especially softball and baseball in Spring term missing up to 13 sessions of a course). Melissa Dawson stressed the importance of the SA's working with the professors and the Dr. Umoren also noted options of semester availability of the classes when SA's are not in season. The handout noted there are 40 undecided majors which were explained to mostly be younger SA's and there was some discussion on involving

AB members is discussions on options within majors as well as career tests that may be of some benefit. Graduate SA's was also discussed for early graduates who still compete after undergraduate or graduate transfers.

c. **2017 -2018 NIU APR Report** - Handout with the current APR numbers for teams was distributed. In 2017-18 academic year, 9 of the 16 teams had a 1,000 for their 1 year APR. Discussed no teams are in area of concern right now. Explained process if teams go below 930 and how NCAA handles rehab and post season bans.

IV. **Athletics Director Update** – S. Frazier shared a handout with Athletic summaries for winter sports and also discussed the additional topics including the MAC Mental Health Summit and the seriousness and need to address the issue locally and nationally. Also explained the Legacy Celebration this weekend and Debra Boughton shared details of the program.

V. **Liaison Reports:**

a. **Diversity Integration Group (D.I.G.)** – K. Smith/ C. Vinson
Schedule varies due to members schedules. Cancelled in January due to weather.

b. **Finance and Facilities** – J. Bittorf /D. Boughton/J. Cheney
Cancelled in January due to weather. Discussed looking to shift to 3rd Wednesday each month to retain J. Bittorf on committee. Will look at option with other committee members.

c. **Student Staff Services** – J. Umoren /M. Dawson/L. Stocksdales
Schedule varies due to members schedules. Cancelled in January due to weather.

d. **External Affairs** – G. Roby/R. Sedevie/TJ Feuerbach -Were able to meet last week, usually meet 1st Thursday of the month. Discussion points included the Apparel RFP, FB home opponents next year and schedule attractiveness, Upcoming events (Cram the Convo and Legacy Celebration), ticket sales for Fall sports including potential opportunity for VB premium seating. The WWE and Trevor Noah refund and future show updates, and a community event with Coach Hammock and the football staff on March 26th at the Forge in Sycamore with the Sycamore Chamber of Commerce.

VI. **Athletic Department Reports:**

a. **Revenue generation** - TJ Feuerbach shared handout and took AB members through External revenue Generation overview. Graphs showed current progress of 2019 Calendar year as well as 2018, which had historically high levels, and a combined 2014-2017. Shifts away from Capital projects towards scholarship and operation requests were explained. TJ and Sean shared how this revenue supplements the overall Athletic Department budget in areas where University budget cuts have impacted operations, but that proves difficult to get donors to fund annual operational expenses.

VII. Announcements

- a. "Cram the Covo" - February 16
- b. Victor E. Ball – April 27 @ NIU, Naperville Campus

Closing Remarks/Adjournment

The next Athletic Board meeting will be on April 24th, 2019. T. Bough made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:25 pm; K. Ladell seconded; motion carried unanimously.