



ATHLETIC BOARD MEETING

April 24, 2019 – 2:00 pm

Present: Mark Groza (Chair), Thomas Bough, Sean Frazier, Pete Garrity, Brian McCormick, Michael Oswalt, Erick Pinter, Josephine Umoren, Mikayla Voigt

Guests: 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; Lisa Stocksdale, Assoc. AD/Human Resources & Donor Relations; Courtney Vinson, Sr. Assoc. AD/Sports Administration; Paul Pierce, Assoc. AD/Compliance; Scott Foelske, Director/Compliance; Krystal Collins, Assistant Director/Compliance

- I. **Call to Order** – M. Groza called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.
- II. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** – B. McCormick moved to approve; P. Garrity seconded; motion carried unanimously.
- III. **Faculty Athletics Representative** – M. Groza remarked that this is the third year of the board being under quarterly by-laws, and indicated that there will be new members coming in this summer. He also commented on the budget difficulties, noting that student-athletes will continue to play an important role in the University.
- IV. **Athletics Department Update** – S. Frazier wanted to draw attention to the Gymnastics team, who hosted and won the MAC Championships, a first in school history. The spring season is wrapping up; Women's Golf placed 3rd in the MAC Championships and Men's Tennis was one match away from theirs.

Frazier went through some housekeeping items. The 4th Annual Victor E. Ball, Athletics' premier fundraising event for Cost of Attendance, will be hosted this year at NIU Naperville on April 27th. Following that will be the Athletics' student-athlete celebration The Victor's, an ESPY-like event, on May 2nd at the Holmes Student Center. The Huskie Summer Circuit, which Frazier described as a traveling roadshow to promote NIU Athletics, will also be returning this summer after a one-year break.

S. Frazier closed by saying that there have been a lot of successes in Athletics, both academically and competitively, despite the current budget situation. P. Garrity asked about the spring game. S. Frazier responded that the game went well, with 60-70 alumni in attendance. He noted that next year they will look into adjusting the timing as 9am was not ideal for a lot of people.

- V. **Liaison Reports:**
 - a. **Diversity Integration Group (D.I.G.)** – C. Vinson will be sending out a survey to the Athletics' staff.
 - b. **Finance and Facilities** – J. Cheney mentioned that there was not a lot to report, noting their next meeting will be in May. He provided a brief update on some of the facilities upgrades. The Nelson Club has been completed and both the Nutrition Center and weight room

enhancements are under way. The ribbon cutting on the Nutrition Center is slated for late May/early June. They are also pursuing LED lighting in the arena, which will not only be more energy efficient but should also prove more cost effective after a 3-4 year payback period.

- c. **External Affairs** – The External Affairs working group met April 4th. T. Feuerbach noted upcoming events including the Huskie Bowl & Gear Sale (4/20), Alumni Awards, the Victor E. Ball (4/27), Genoa/DeKalb/Sycamore Expo tours, and Campus Meets Community (9/12). The football homecoming game is slated for 10/26. The football season ticket renewal deadline is 4/26, and the volleyball renewal deadline is 6/15. P. Garrity remarked on NIU Cares Day, adding how impressed he was by the participation and turn out of the student-athletes.

VI. **Athletic Department Reports:**

- a. **2018 Cheribundi Boca Raton Bowl – Financial Report** – D. Boughton provided a Bowl Summary report to the group. The summary showed a breakdown of the last five Bowl games, including the Boca Raton game. This year, the MAC paid \$350K and took care of the team's airfare to/from the Bowl site. The total revenue of \$367,681 is comparable to the revenue from the last Bowl games, and remains consistent with what has been seen while S. Frazier has been the Athletics Director. D. Boughton noted that the numbers are not final; they have to add in the MAC Charter payment, and the total expenses, ball parked at \$495K, will likely come down a little once everything has been reconciled.
- b. **Men and Women's Basketball Ticket Prices** – J. Cheney provided the group with a handout with the Men and Women's Basketball ticket season prices, which have not changed from last year. M. Groza remarked that the recently renovated Nelson Club will provide a great opportunity to generate revenue.
- c. **End of Year Compliance Presentation** – P. Pierce noted that Athletic Board assists the Compliance office with hearings for cancellation/reduction of Athletic financial aid. Notification of renewal/non-renewal is required by July 1st. From the date of notification, student-athletes have 15 days to request a hearing to appeal the decision.

P. Pierce continued his presentation with an overview of the Compliance office. The Compliance office enforces institutional control, the responsibility that the conduct of intercollegiate athletics shall be exercised by the institution itself and by the conference, by creating policies/procedures to educate and enforce NCAA policy. He discussed recent infraction cases such as the University of Missouri where a tutor provided impermissible assistance to twelve student-athletes (level I infraction) or the University of Oregon where a grade was changed for a track student-athlete and the men and women's basketball programs failed to follow compliance policy (level II infraction).

P. Pierce walked the group through the Compliance website and discussed the role that JumpForward plays in monitoring student-athletes and coaches/support staff. P. Pierce also went over some of the educational efforts that are facilitated through the Compliance office. The student-athletes receive education both at the beginning and end of the year, and throughout the year through email and social media. The department receives education through emails, Coaches education sessions, social media, etc. P. Pierce wrapped up his presentation by noting, effective 10/15/18, the NCAA transfer portal now allows

student-athletes to initiate the notification of transfer process by merely providing written notification to his/her institution at any time.

P. Pierce closed by asking the members of the Board to complete and return the Athletic Board Feedback form to his office, which he indicated would be sent to the members via e-mail following the meeting.

- d. **2018-2019 NCAA Financial Report, Athletics Department Budget Discussion** – D. Boughton went over the 2018-2019 NCAA Financial Report, an annual reporting mechanism required by the NCAA to benchmark revenue and expense categories in the Athletics department. The report includes 20 revenue and 23 expense categories calculated from all sources/uses in the Athletic department and is due to the NCAA no later than January following the end of that fiscal year. D. Boughton briefly went over the revenue and expense categories (included on the PowerPoint), noting that the inclusion of Bowl revenue was just recently added starting in FY16. For expenses, she drew attention to the coaching/staff salaries, remarking that the institution does not pay the employee benefits, those are paid down state. Lastly, D. Boughton observed that the average Athletic department budget in the MAC for FY18 was approximately \$33 million; NIU's was roughly \$25 million.

VII. **Announcements** – N/A

VIII. **Closing Remarks/Adjournment**

M. Groza closed the meeting at 3:26 pm.