UC Athletics and Recreation

MINUTES

OCTOBER 27, 2011 3:15 – 4:30 PM

MEETING CALLED BY

Tom Wistrcill

TYPE OF MEETING

First committee meeting

FACILITATOR

Tom Wistrcill

NOTE TAKER

Mary Cooke

ATTENDEES

Jake Berkline, Mary Cooke, Tim Cox, Charles Fey, Anthony Fosselman, Jessica Goerke, Nancy Homa, Michael Kimble, Kris Kraft, Kathy Rex, Dan Satter, Daniel Shaffer, Jim Walczyk, Tom Wistrcill

Agenda topics

INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members introduced themselves, which campus constituency they represented, how long they have been at The University of Akron, and their department.

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations, seconds, discussion and vote were taken for each position. Elected officers for our committee are:
Chair – Kent Marsden (CPAC member)
Vice Chair – Kris Kraft (Faculty member)
Secretary – Mary Cooke (Staff member)

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS

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GOAL OF OUR FIRST MEETING

DISCUSSION

1. We will look at what is the charge of our group, but first we need to understand that Athletic and Recreation are two distinct departments.

2. Comment by Dr. Fey – because this committee is looking at two distinct departments; we should look to identify and accomplish 1 or 2 goals from each department this year.

3. Tom Wistrcill suggested that he and Jim Walczyk share about each of their departments so we may begin to understand what each department does whom they serve, and some of their goals for their departments.

4. Daniel Sheffer worked on the University Council document that outlines the scope of our work as a committee.

   - Tom Wistrcill read the addendum page that outlines responsibilities of our committee [page 20 of the August 19, 2011 University Council document].

   - Dr. Fey will send committee members the latest version of the University Council document so that everyone may read it.
Jim Walczyk gave a brief overview on the Student Recreation and Wellness Services (SRWS) department.

1. SRWS is based on components found nationally and recognized by the National Intramural-Recreation Sports Association (NIRSA), the guiding association for campus recreation and wellness.
2. SRWS encompasses Informal Recreation, Aquatics, Intramurals, Fitness and Wellness, Club Sports, Outdoor Adventure programming, with supporting aspects such as the Climbing Wall; along with fitness equipment and dance and exercise rooms.
3. The student union meets some recreation needs with bowling and billiards available for students.
4. SRWS is operated primarily with student employees; the past school year 220 students were employed by SRWS. They are trained and overseen by SRWS contract professional staff.
5. The main funding SRWS receives is by the student facilities fee; classified as an auxiliary operations, activities and staffing are balanced since SRWS has no control of expenses that have gone up and continue to go up.
6. Possible goals
   a. One would be additional facilities based on a growing number of on- and near-campus students and regional location (weather impacted); the current Rec Center is nearing capacity
      • Based on Spring 2011, Rec Center has regular (2x/week +) attendance of 2,100+, 1x/week attendance of 9,600+ of the nearly 12,000 enrolled students (50% use rate)
      • SRWS shares facilities with Athletics
   b. SRWS also wants to build faculty and staff inclusion; this helps with student retention and building the UA community
Currently there are over 650 staff who are members; SRWS wants to build aspects and resources of health and wellness of the campus community with other Health & Wellness components already on campus.

Offer discounted rate to alumni/retirees to build the UA community.

c. Need for additional green space – this would be a good discussion for this committee – particularly lighted fields, as well as additional indoor areas.

The presentation on November 16 will be a more comprehensive review and explanation of SRWS and what it is about.

**CONCLUSIONS**

**ACTION ITEMS**

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Jim Walczyk will present a PowerPoint presentation on SRWS at our next meeting.

**BRIEF PRESENTATION ON THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT**

Tom Wistrcill gave an overview of the Athletics Department – he proposed that both he and Jim give formal PowerPoint presentations at our next meeting as well for the benefit of the committee members.

1. The University of Akron is an NCA Division I Athletic Department; there are 120 in the United States.
2. We are in the Mid-American Conference (MAC); we have 19 sports and 480 student athletes.
3. Budget
   a. $24 million, 70% of which is funded by UA, 30% is self-generated.
   b. Has a breakdown of about 1/3 each spent on
      - Scholarships
      - Personnel
      - Operations (includes equipment, travel, recruiting, facility operations)
   c. About $7 million is paid back to UA in scholarships
4. Main goal is focus on students and their success
   a. Graduate our student athletes – doing well with a 71% graduation rate over the past 6 years, about double the general UA graduation rate.
• Student athletes have very good support for academics.
• Retention is also very good.

b. Academics of student athletes
c. Social aspects of student athletes’ development
d. Personal and career development

5. Athletics also has a focus on Community because sports and the department are very visible – whether good or bad, they are in the news
   a. “Front porch” to University
   b. Over half of coverage of the University is athletics
   c. Over half of public’s first contact with UA is through Athletics

6. Athletics has active sales and development teams; development raised about $2 million last year.

7. Just announced earlier today – NCAA voted in paying $2,000/year to student athletes; this amount is fixed for three years
   a. May cost Athletics $300,000 - $500,000 per year
   b. 135 students are on full scholarships to UA, but students whose scholarships add up to a full scholarship are eligible as well.
   c. All the details need to be figured on this new ruling.

8. Another goal of Athletics is to raise more money so the University can give less.
   a. However, expenses are assigned by the University; Athletics has no control over those
   b. For example, expenses went up $700,000 this year for Athletics due to tuition and salary increases.

9. Needs of Athletics
   • Renovation of the JAR (James A Rhodes building) as well as baseball fields

CONCLUSIONS

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Tom Wistrcill will present a PowerPoint presentation on the Athletics Department at our next meeting.

MEETINGS

DISCUSSION

1. The committee decided that we would meet monthly.
2. We can continue to meet at Tommy Evans Lounge.
3. We will meet on Wednesdays at 3 pm.
4. At our November meeting, Athletics and Recreation will present (half an hour
each) a PowerPoint presentation for the committee.

CONCLUSIONS

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