STUDENTS RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MARCH 18, 2011

Present: Fred Askari, Bonnie Fauman, Rachel Goldman, Royster Harper, Donna Hayward, Simone Himbeault-Taylor, Charles Koopman, Leo McAfee, David Potter; student rep Matthew Woods; Paula Pawlowski.

Absent: Stacy Peterson

Guests: William Canning, Recreational Sports Director; Jay Wilgus, OSCR Director

Char Potter convened the meeting at 12:06.

Chair Remarks
The Chair followed up the February discussion of the Fall 2011 night game. David Brandon, the athletic director, sees the game as an experiment which will not be repeated if serious safety issues arise. The Committee noted that this game may not be indicative of future night games, since the Stadium Bridge will still be in construction. Royster Harper has discussed with administration the possibility of creating a party zone to help control the number of students walking home after the game.

Fred Askari mentioned that he had discussed the ER’s preparation for the game. The hospital is predicting an influx of students with alcohol-related illness and is properly preparing itself. More information will be forwarded to the Committee.

The Committee approved the minutes.

Recreational Sports
The Committee welcomed Bill Canning to the meeting. He noted that he was happy to be back in the Division of Student Affairs. A task force was created to develop a new model and budget for Rec Sports, which resulted in today’s integrated model. Before the switch, Rec Sports discussed financial matters with the Provost and all other matters with the Sports. This was an awkward framework that did not efficiently address the differences between the Sports and Rec Sports, namely serving non-athlete students.

Rec Sports cuts across multiple executive offices within athletics, academics, the hospital and DSA. The UMove program, for example, is part of the Kinesiology department but uses Rec Sports facilities. The program has its origins in mandatory physical education classes that were previously mandatory. There is confusion in this crossover. Rec Sports does not coordinate UMove classes, but it provides the facilities and coordinates with the School of Kinesiology to expand the group activity rooms.

Canning distributed a Rec Sports report on current research. Since January 2010, a strategic planning group has been planning the facilities’ renovation, including a new model and budget. Peer analysis and industry benchmarks will be guides to using facilities and resources effectively and sustainably. The clarified vision will include a sustainable budget, instead of a year-to-year budget and facility reconstruction, which are part of the U’s campus-wide renovations.

Rec Sports wants to respect its history on campus throughout the reconstruction process. The U, along with OSU, created the first Rec Sports department on any American college campus. The IM Building on Hoover St. was the first building of its kind and is considered the “cathedral” of recreational sports. The 100th anniversary of this building and of Rec Sports will be celebrated in 2013.
Overall, the new plan emphasizes that Rec Sports facilities are for the students. There are three possible ways of fundraising: student fees, donors, and central equity. Central development, with the president and U leaders, make a coordinate decision about which external donors are contacted. A funding model that emphasizes students is prioritized, while the new facilities will also attract prospective students.

The Committee noted that this is potentially problematic, as there will need to be equivalent facilities for faculty and staff. Lack of facilities for faculty and staff is a competitive weakness, especially on the medical campus. Staff and clinical faculty are at a significant disadvantage, as they do not have the same freedom of coming and going throughout the day. Despite the emphasis on students, all U members will be accommodated. After the renovations, faculty and staff's peak use of facilities would rarely intersect with peak student use. Lack of space is the key issue for all groups on campus.

The Committee agreed that Rec Sports should be discussed further at the April meeting.

Students Rights and Responsibilities
The Committee welcomed Jay Wilgus who presented the committee with possible changes to sexual violence procedure and Title 9 cases. The process is currently complaint-driven where the complainant drives the process and may stop it at anytime. The national Office of Civil Rights suggests that misconduct cases must have some sort of review before they can be terminated, which would shift some of the responsibility to the U. OSCR is currently debating switching to an investigative process, which would also add more responsibilities to OSCR.

There is Supreme Court precedent that an accuser's initial statement cannot be admitted if the accuser retracts his or her statement. Students having experienced an assault tend to retreat back home in an effort to distance themselves from the place where the assault occurred. The Committee noted that the U should foster a culture where it is not easier to leave than it is to stay.

OSCR is engaging campus and community groups on this issue, but is suspending further action until the Office of Civil Rights releases a guidance letter applicable to universities. OSCR wanted the committee to be aware of these questions and to start a conversation.

Concluding Statements
The Committee discussed that Rec Sports and the SRR should be revisited. Members expressed their preference for a longer April meeting, rather than an additional post-exam meeting. The committee will meet from noon to 2pm on April 15.

The meeting ended at 1:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Pawlowski
SACUA Student Support