SRAC Meeting Minutes: April 16, 2010
Approved October 22, 2010


Guests: Loren Rullman, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
        Lisa Shea, Recreational Sports

Meeting called to order at 12:04pm

Chair Remarks: revision of statement of student rights and responsibilities process went very well.

Ian Margolis thanked the committee for the experience of serving as MSA representative

Introduction of Loren Rullman and Lisa Shea, who will be discussing recreational sports.

Brief overview/what happened recently with Rec Sports:

-Rec sports transitioned in fall 2009 from the Athletic Department to the control of the AVPSA

-May 2009: student wellness work group formed
  -31 gaps that students and staff addressed
  -top issues include
    1) recreational sports facility updates
    2) stress relief
    3) a wellness campaign

-Task force in 2007 for rec sports produced a report in 2009 and included a number of recommendations.
  -What were the rationale for those recommendations?
  -What will we do with those recommendations?

Other units:-
Faculty and staff wellness
  -get into the hands of MHealthy and Human Resources

Club sports council
  - student group formed to build community among 46 club sports
    (formed this year).

Pulse survey at the doors of the facilities (early winter 2010)
  - DSA has arrangement with STUDENT VOICE survey company- what is on people’s minds
  -Data to be analyzed this summer
**Transition and planning process**

Facilities planning:
- what do we want rec sports to be?
  - pose this question first, and what facilities we want to follow

January: visited with university planner
March: held vision workshop for campus community input and guidance

Major findings:
- create master plan
- revise budget
- update mission and focus
- do not have consensus - task force identified that.

Workshop asked us big questions about what works and what doesn’t:
- 30 years from now, what would it look like?
- Rather than starting with “we need a larger track”, etc.
- What we need is a response to what we want to be.
- Data in hands of steering committee
  - Get that information back to Royster, CFO office
  - Achieve a level of consensus.

This summer into early fall - Focus groups and conversations with stakeholders to look at what facilities or improvements do we need to achieve that vision. Improve our operating model. How will we make this happen?

::: Handout: timeline for rec sports :::
- 2013 could be a milestone for us to celebrate our 100 year history of recreational sports
  - We have missed an opportunity to stay current
  - We are excited about 2013 and confident that we can capitalize on this history and this process to make progress.

- We have 800 varsity athletes
- We have 2,500 students that play club sports and other things
  - tremendous influence of our student body
  - offer more attention to students participating in rec sports.

Currently, revenue base emphasis on memberships
- decline in memberships over the years;
- we have a mission to serve students
- how do we create a financially sustainable model to serve faculty staff and students with a model that is sustainable?
Discussion on student fees and financing of rec sports updates:

- Mandatory fee gets folded into tuition (including recreational facilities fees)- hard to extract again.

- No mechanism to make specific improvements; funding did not have capital renewal built into it; do not build in plan for capital renewal

Are any donors being steered towards rec facilities?

The thrust of the last capital campaign was towards financial aid- need based financial aid
- how can we argue against that?

What about corporate donors?

- Ohio state has Center, Value City Arena, Wisconsin has Kohls Center- etc. are there not wealthy companies?
- Hasn’t been our culture to do it; with respect to development they try to follow us in terms of fund raising not a function of will or hard work, we have to lay out our strategy, and then in the context of who we are and our principles, how will we get it done?
- We do not allow ads in our stadium. – will this ever become acceptable?
- Is there a culture shift in what is important at this campus- academics vs. athletics, vs. wellness.

- Not likely to have advertising in our stadium- we will not put athletics over academics- for endowed chairs, etc. The U of M encourages donations towards the intellectual research and teaching capacity of the university; other things that enrich our quality of life will get attention but will not be addressed first.

Look at peers- look at their facilities and how they fund them.

We want wellness, concept that if we really wanted to do it we could, and we should make it affordable, because the healthier you are the less we pay in healthcare; we are self insured. Pay it out through wellness or pay it out through illness. People need to step up and make some decisions.

Do other schools fund this through their athletic department?

- No, usually student fees.
- 2/3 or ¾ of these departments are a part of student affairs; student fees tend to be the way these facilities are funded.

Could recreation center be open for the general public to pay and obtain memberships?

- Legal issues such as unfair competition for other health clubs
- Cannot compete in private market because we are a tax exempt institution, etc.

- WCC is open to the public- not sure how that works.

Will there be recreation centers within the new dorms?

No- Reslife focused on academic, living learning sites not on recreation

How much work is needed?
Guess deferred maintenance problem is 10’s of millions.
To capitalize would be 100 million.
To build a brand new one, would be 130 million (Compare with OSU).

Do we need a BRAND NEW facility?
- this process will determine that
-what do people want, where are they, what are population patterns, use for the property
-Sustainability we are committed to as a university- far easier to renovate existing facilities

-IM bldg is an historic property.

-Rec facilities not only suffering, but intercollegiate facilities also suffered.

-Michigan has deferred keeping up to date on those facilities

Compare to OSU:

Rec facilities at OSU charge student fee close to $200 per semester. (Quarter).
Students will pay more than we may suggest they will be willing to pay; part of our responsibility is to balance willingness with what we think is wise and prudent $400 a year for rec sports is not wise and prudent.

-We are at a competitive disadvantaged when trying to recruit students, because of our recreational sports facilities.

-Sometimes that’s the breaker for students for both athletic and/or academic talent.

What priority do we want recreation sports to have?

-Percentage of students who use facilities is close to 80% (who have swiped in at least once).

VPSA Royster Harper closing remarks:

These meetings created a place for people to be heard, esp. during Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities revision process. Thank you for that.

Next year: topics:

Gender neutral housing
student life facilities
res life initiative part II
North campus transportation
student cultural understanding
student meaning making

-Day to day functioning of students

-Out of state tuition
    Defined 30-40 years ago; modern economy and family have changed dramatically

-Offerings to students- summer programs for disadvantaged students:
    -Overlap- with campus life and academics
This group can have greater influence; not just student affairs proper- but influence and sharing opinion rather than direct change.

Minutes approved for February and March.

Meeting adjourned at 1:18pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Teske (SACUA Student Support)