

Athletics and Intramural Committee
Meeting Notes
October 6, 2008

PRESENT: Phil Blau, Heather Devoe, Cindy Hopkins, Steve Rader, Jim Settle, Lavanya Vemsani

ABSENT: Nancy Bentley, Megan Eubanks, Jeff Hamilton, Brenda Renfroe, Bob Trusz, John Valentine

Steve Rader opened the meeting with introductions and distributed a list of members, meeting dates for the year and issues to address for the upcoming year. Steve said he met with Dr. Morris to determine what she wants us to accomplish this year. Steve said the committee will look at new sports and recommend the process for adding a new sport; determine the feasibility and procedure for adding JV programs; develop a philosophy on club sports and its place/role at SSU; and collect participation data on intramural sports. Steve said he envisions, for the sake of efficiency, dividing into two committees to accomplish this work.

Regarding the addition of new sports programs, Steve said we would need to look at several different things such as popularity of the sports, who will our competitors be, facilities, cost, etc., and has thought of developing some sort of template for adding a new sport. The committee also needs to look at JV sports to determine some of the issues and feasibility. Steve said the last two things we need to examine are kind of related are club and intramural sports. Club sports have been perceived as a step to varsity sports, but we will have some sports that are club sports that will never go to varsity status or won't be in the near future. Steve said budget recommendations have to be in by February 14, 2009 so that's why the completion date of February 2, 2009 is listed as the completion date on the handout.

Intramural sports need to have data collected to look at participation and Coach Barlow has been asked to collect some baseline data. Heather said she lives on campus and doesn't hear about a lot of things. Steve said we will look at marketing and how to expand the offerings and get students involved. Phil said there's no difference between the euchre club and the roller hockey club that some sports are treated like clubs when club sports are different than activities. There is no mechanism to handle these sports so these issues will be looked at by the committee.

Heather asked if Shawnee is planning to go to Division II and Steve said we are NAIA and Division II would be NCAA which would take a big commitment from Shawnee such as adding scholarships, needing to find a conference. Jim said the facility investment alone would be a lot of investment and Steve concurred we don't have the infrastructure for it. Steve said this would be a monster investment and in his experience we need to stay with NAIA for now.

Steve asked if there were any other issues from last year we need to discuss. Jim suggested we may want to continue discussion about drug testing to see if a policy is needed and if so what that policy would be.

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Heather suggested more co-ed sports or more sports/activities female students could enjoy such as volleyball, softball, flag football. Cindy agreed these activities would add to the quality of student life, and Steve said that is something to look at. The discussion of a lack of facilities for indoor sports/activities ensued, and Jim suggested once parking on campus gets equalized a bit, perhaps what used to be the tennis courts could have a shell building installed for some type of court space.

Steve said he was glad to have Heather here because a student voice is very important to this committee stating this program is all about students.

Steve stated the committee will discuss all issues and vote on them. Recommendations on issues will be submitted to the president along with supporting and dissenting opinions. Phil stated it is a good policy to let committee members know in advance that a vote will be taking place.

Steve asked for any other questions or comments. There being none, the meeting ended. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 27, 2008, 4:00p.m., ATC 221.

cjh