

Athletic and Intramural Committee
Meeting Notes
November 24, 2008

PRESENT: Phil Blau, Jeff Hamilton, Cindy Hopkins, Steve Rader, Brenda Renfro, Jim Settle, Bob Trusz, John Valentine, Lavanya Vemsani

ABSENT: Nancy Bentley, Heather Devoe, Megan Eubanks

Steve Rader opened the meeting by distributing an agenda then turned the meeting over to Phil Blau for a report on Club/Intramural Sports Subcommittee.

Club/Intramural Sports – Phil began by thanking all the subcommittee members who got information to him in a timely manner. Phil distributed information gathered by the subcommittee plus a table showing the results of all schools contacted and stated a lot of schools have club sports under student activities, are not a stepping stone to varsity sports, and regular sports are under the athletic department. Discussion ensued regarding funding for club sports and where to house club sports – athletics or student activities. When asked for his opinion, Dr. Settle said with everyone having to do more with less, we need to find a way to make things work with having less staff, and we are getting a large enough residential population to maybe move club sports to student activities, but we are not there yet so he thinks we need to keep them combined for the time being. Phil suggested getting the subcommittee together briefly to see what the subcommittee consensus is regarding club sports.

Drug Testing – Steve Rader distributed an update on drug testing. He contacted athletic trainers at peer institutions using an online survey to gather drug testing policies of other institutions to get a feel for what they are testing for and the costs to administer drug testing. Steve said he brings this to the committee for digestion, and if we are going to drug test, how do we do it and do it right. Discussion ensued on whether to test for street drugs or performance enhancing drugs and to include other parts of the student population rather than just athletes. Steve mentioned that NAIA does not have a policy on drug testing. Steve asked Dr. Settle for his opinion and he said it is difficult to implement and expensive, and if a student has a problem, he would rather identify that student through peers, coaches, trainers, faculty and help the student that way. As far as performance enhancing drugs, Dr. Settle said he is more concerned with the effects of these drugs on the person rather than what it does for an athletic performance. Again, he feels with good relationships with coaches and trainers we can identify these people and sit down and talk to the student about the problem and educate them as to the negative effects of drugs. After discussion, Steve said he's hearing that our focus should be education.

Athletics Reorganization – Dr. Settle distributed a summary of a proposal for reorganization of the athletics department. He said the basic goal is to create opportunities for the retention and academic success of students by creating full-time coaching positions through combining

positions and adding responsibilities to these positions. Dr. Settle said this would give us four full-time coaching professionals and provides more people focused on students who don't have other day jobs. Part-time coaches have presented a challenge for students and coaches and affects retention. Discussion centered on position titles and what to call these positions other than athletic directors. Steve asked for a timeline and Dr. Settle said this is presented for discussion at this meeting, and it is going to the board meeting in January.

The next meeting will be December 1 at 4:00 p.m.