

Shawnee State University
Athletic and Intramural Committee (AIC)
Report of Activities and Recommendations Academic Year 2007-2008
(Recommendations are noted in bold.)

During the 2007-2008 academic year, the Athletic and Intramural Committee (AIC) undertook activities that included establishing a procedure for starting new intercollegiate sports, a review of the Direction Qualification Proposal, and looked into junior varsity baseball. The AIC also discussed both club sports and the grouping of our varsity sports in tiers.

The AIC recommended a **procedure for starting new sports**, contained at the end of this report. Should there be a proposal to add a new varsity sport such as track, for example, there are now criteria that can help evaluate such a proposal.

The AIC does not enthusiastically support the Direct Qualification Proposal. No motion in favor of it was made; however, neither was there a motion against it. There were some concerns that it might not benefit the majority of NAIA schools, but only a limited number of schools, especially those that make the national tournament frequently. It could take away a school's opportunity to play in a regional tournament, which might be the ultimate goal for a smaller school. It would likely provide better competition in the national tournament, but perhaps at the expense of postseason participation by smaller schools.

There are currently 3 tiers of sports and the committee needs to be able to explain why we have those 3 tiers. Suggested criteria included were contribution to student life; financial contributions to the university; coaching responsibilities to run the sport; roster size. A rough draft produced by the committee broke our intercollegiate teams into the following tiers: Major: men's and women's basketball; Intermediate: baseball, softball, men's and women's soccer, volleyball; Minor Sports: women's tennis, men's golf, men's and women's cross country. The salaries of the coaches would be \$14,000, \$12,500, and \$10,100 respectively. The length of the "in season" would be 24 weeks, 22 weeks, and 18 weeks, respectively. After a review by Student Affairs to see how tiered sports are going to affect the budget, the AIC will revisit this issue.

Another recommendation passed by the AIC was **that ex-officio members of the AIC Committee will not vote on issues that the majority of faculty at an AIC meeting consider to have a direct impact on the academic performance of students (e.g., eligibility standards, games played during an exam period, number of games played that take students out of class over the course of a season, etc.)**. The rationale was to provide the faculty on the committee with the opportunity to have the majority of the votes on issues that have a direct impact on the academic performance of students. However, after this recommendation was passed, it was mentioned that the usual vote could be taken, but if discarding the votes of ex-officio members would change the vote a minority report could be issued as well. As chair, I strongly feel that using a minority report rather than altering the voting rules is a more appropriate action. Nonetheless, the committee did pass the

recommendation that ex-officio members can be excluded from voting of what the majority of faculty determine to be academic issues.

The AIC also discussed club sports. There is a shift in the paradigm: In the past club sports were thought to be a trial run for future intercollegiate sports; now they are also a factor in making residential life more attractive as part of enrollment management. At present both Student Activities and Athletics are working on a joint plan addressing intramurals and club sports. Therefore, the AIC will wait to review this plan before issuing any recommendations in this area.

Part of the charge of the AIC is to review budgets. Currently the athletics budget is undergoing the process of establishing zero based budgeting. Therefore, since the budget that will result from this process has not been set, the committee will review it in the coming year.

The committee also passed a recommendation **to approve the expansion request of junior varsity baseball**. This passed unanimously. It is a relatively inexpensive way to help with retention of varsity ball players, especially those who feel they are not receiving enough playing time.

Procedure for Starting New Intercollegiate Sports
Recommended by the Shawnee State University Athletic and Intramural Committee
May 2008

1. Athletic Director submits all proposals to Vice President for Student Affairs.
2. Athletic Director and Vice President for Student Affairs present proposal with their recommendations to Athletic Intramural Committee (AIC) for review.
3. Upon consideration by the AIC, the proposal shall be forwarded to the President, with recommendations of the committee and Athletic Director clearly noted.

Criteria that must be included in the proposal:

1. In what year would the new sport begin intercollegiate play?
2. Does our current conference affiliation sponsor this sport and how difficult would scheduling be?
3. How will the addition of the sport impact Title IX compliance?
4. Would the new sport be classified as major, minor, or intermediate under the Shawnee State University Classification of Sports?
5. What is the proposed annual budget?
6. What is the projected start up cost?
7. Does Shawnee State University have a quality facility that would accommodate the practice needs and competition needs of a new sport? Is a quality facility available for lease? Is the facility available at a time that our coaches and students are available?
8. Is the new sport going to be staffed with part-time or full-time coaches? Will the addition of student/athletes and practices/games put enough of an increase in workload to current staff that additional support staff must be hired?
9. What is the projected roster size?
10. Will existing sports lose funding or staffing?
11. Will adding the new sport fit the mission statement for athletics?