

Recreational Sports and Services Advisory Board

AP Council Representative: Paul A. Bennett, M.D.

Spring Semester 2009 Report

Meetings were held on 2/20, 3/24, 4/7 and 5/5. I was able to attend 3 of 4.

Highlights:

Facility:

Single entrance plan was enacted over holiday break. There is now one entrance at the lower level north end of the building. A student worker greets visitors and swipes their cards. This is now a more pleasant and secure entrance and has created a noticeable change in the number of unauthorized visitors and disruption.

Free weight room underwent renovation, painting, cleaning, lighting and all of the equipment was replaced. Supervisors were increased from one to two for this room.

Outdoor fields west of the baseball field were prepared and planted but will not be ready for play until fall semester. An arrangement was made with Carbondale Park district for spring softball to be held at Evergreen Terrace and old fashioned 16 inch softball was reintroduced.

The Rec Center remained open a limited number of hours during holiday break and enjoyed approximately 1500 visitors per day.

Personnel:

3 graduate assistants completed their training and left at the end of December. A decision was made to not replace them due to cost. Their duties were reassigned to other staff and student workers.

A budgeted 3rd custodial worker position has not been filled.

A Vacant Intramural Coordinator position was not filled.

Salaries represent approximately 80% of the RSS budget.

Budget:

Preparations and budget proposals have been discussed for 4,6,8,10% budget cuts.

Events:

Rec Your Body Indoor Triathlon

Doc Spackman Outdoor Triathlon

Cardboard Boat Regatta

Healthy Losers Contest

Golf & Awards banquet was held during Past and Present Week-end.

Short inexpensive trips were organized for rock climbing, scuba diving, hiking, camping, and river canoeing.

Planning:

Explored opportunities to work with Davies Gym and Pulliam but there was little interest in collaborative recreational efforts to extend hours and efficiency.

Indoor operations at the Rec Center are not up to industry standards for space, so there is ongoing planning for renovation, expansion, and upgrades. The RSS board is considering proposals for addition of 23,000 sq. ft. which would allow the free weight and fixed weight rooms to be combined, allowing similar supervision. This would provide a 2 court gym to the Northwest, and an increase in multipurpose rooms. There is consideration of adding a stand alone "Chiller" that would lower utility costs when the initial financial outlay has been covered. Costs are being carefully monitored with current and future budgetary and student body size in mind.

University Outreach:

There has been a concerted effort by staff for Face-to-Face Marketing.

Autumn Memberships were offered from Oct-May at a discounted rate to increase enrollment.

We approved a reduced rate for student dependants (typically single parent's children) to \$15/semester.

Eight free memberships were awarded to the recipients of the Annual University Faculty/Staff Awards.

Base camp (Camping/Canoeing) Rentals are now open to the public. Example is \$15/per day for Kayak. This was encouraged by local businesses that sell such equipment.

Honors:

The RSS Advisory Boards USG representative, Priciliano Fabian, was elected USG President.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul A. Bennett, M.D.

Additional Note: I have served on the RSS Advisory Board as your representative for the last two years. It is my understanding that it was a two year appointment. I have appreciated the opportunity to participate in campus affairs in this modest way and would be happy to continue to do so if that is your pleasure.