

Recreational Sports and Services Advisory Board
Report to AP Staff Council Spring 2011.

6/3/11

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in the University outside my department. This will be my last report to AP Council. I am not sure when my term actually ends, but I have taken on more administrative duties at Health Service and will no longer be able to represent you at RSS. Thank you again for the experience.

Meetings were Jan. 14, Feb, 18, March 25, and April 8. Due to illnesses and medical staff departures at health service I was only able to attend the first two meetings.

The **reorganization of the university** changed our reporting lines to Lori Stettler, Division of Auxiliary Services and Kevin Bame, Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance.

As usual much of the board's time was taken up with **budget and fee** issues. With a great deal of discussion and compromise Student Rec Center fees will increase by only \$2.50, \$.50 of which was legally mandated because of anticipated bond sale for HVAC system to be included in the university's Fall 2011 bond sale. Proposals for replacement of the 30 year old system are being evaluated with much emphasis on energy costs.

Energy costs remain the single most rapidly increasing cost. We have been able to moderate the effect on the budget with installation of much more cost efficient lighting within the building and parking. The new HVAC system will be considerably cheaper to run, but of course costly to acquire and install.

Other fees have modestly increased for non-student use including guest passes, personal training and swim lessons. These increases, while modest are expected to provide an additional \$31,500 in revenue for the center, offsetting some need for increased student fees. Over Holiday Break, despite limited hours, heavy use was noted and approximately \$4,000 was collected in guest pass fees. We are happy that the facility is utilized and generates the fees necessary for operation during these times.

A new **Fitness Coordinator** Rebecca Kimball has been hired. She comes with excellent credentials and we are pleased to welcome her service to our organization.

Some time was taken this semester to review and develop a new **Mission/Value** statement for RSS. Questionnaires were sent to staff, board, and students for review. A model for this development was borrowed from Ohio State for this endeavor.

Ongoing discussions and negotiations continue with athletics revolving around the sharing of pool and indoor track facilities. In addition, after the demolition of McAndrew Stadium, the outdoor track will be moved, not to the new stadium but will likely be placed on one of the intramural playing fields. Again, shared use and placement of that facility will be discussed.

Campus Lake recreational facilities are the responsibility of RSS, but the lake itself is not. The lake was intended to be dredged every 10-15 years for the overall health of the lake and its inhabitants. Unfortunately this expensive endeavor has not been done for over 50 years and the lake is considerably shallower and less able to be a natural fish habitat than before. A slight Campus Rec fee increase for purchase of an aerator was proposed but shelved for now. It would only modestly improve things at a cost of about \$35,000 to buy, install and operate one of these devices. Three would be better. There are ongoing discussions with Academics, PSO, and the Chancellor's office regarding the financial responsibility, perhaps shared, but of course everyone is conscious of our budgetary constraints. We also have some concern about the university's responsibility and desire to maintain the facility for community use.

The **large gym floor** at the Rec. Center is undergoing replacement. Started in April and is expected to be finished by late June. Also new curtains for that gym will be installed. The indoor track in that gym will soon need replacement. Discussions are underway with Athletics regarding sharing that cost.

Intramural sports has seen an increase in both the number of participants and the number of events attended by each participant despite declining enrollment numbers. We feel this indicates student interest in exercise, fitness and hope that the programs offered continue to meet their needs and interests.

Saluki Healthiest Loser program was again offered this spring.

A constant interest is in the health and well being of our students. RSS feels that interest and efforts in this regard will benefit the university in terms of student retention. Student input on the board is extraordinarily helpful in directing these efforts.

A pilot **Fitness Initiative Program** was instituted this semester with and expected 390 Kinesiology 101 students. It is intended to evaluate fitness and identify any health risks and plan a personal fitness and lifestyle program for individuals. The long term, rather ambitious goal is to offer this to all incoming freshman students.

Events this semester included the Polar Plunge, a Golf Tournament, Awards Banquet, and NIRSA Fitness Wellness Day held at the Rec Center.

I trust you will find someone to replace me on this advisory board. Again, I appreciate the opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A. Bennett, M.D.