

Recreational Sports and Services Advisory Board

Report for 12/19/07

Meetings: 10/18/07, 10/25/07, 11/1/07, 11/29/07

Reviewed analysis done by director and his team this summer, including anticipated needs and opportunities for the Recreation Center, Playing Fields, and Tennis Courts, and Pools.

This advisory board is made up of 13 designated members 7 of which are students; none are Recreation Center staff.

Saluki Way has been the topic of discussion because it's construction will take away RSS facilities including 3 lighted/fenced softball/multi-purpose fields, 12 lighted/fenced tennis courts, and 1 storage facility. Funding and current plans for replacement of the lost facilities are felt to be undesirable as 6 tennis courts would be lost, and the 3 fields would simply replace other fields currently in use for Rugby, soccer, cricket, and ultimate frisbee, a net loss of 3 fields.

A **Recreation Park** is proposed which would replace all of the facilities lost and would include construction of additional facilities. It would utilize monies allocated by Saluki Way funding (\$1.2M) but require additional funding (\$4.2M), paid for by an increase in **Student Campus Recreation** fee by \$25.60 per semester (currently \$5, total 31.60), for 6 years. The proposed park would include 6 playing fields, (3 lighted), 1 cricket pitch, 12 tennis courts, walking/jogging trails, a pavilion with grills/picnic areas, an adaptive fitness course, a PAR course, and an outdoor music/band facility. This would connect to, and enhance the Campus Lake facilities.

An increase in the **Student Recreation** fee from \$114 to \$122 was approved, however with energy conservation plans in place and based upon real, rather than projected energy costs, the staff felt that the proposed fee could be reduced to \$119. Increase fees will allow the center to offer 3% FT Staff Raises, cover the additional expenses incurred because of the minimum wage increase, pay for the addition of another full time Athletic Trainer that will increase available coverage for intramural sports, and includes the addition of a full time Custodial/Pool Tender position, thereby eliminating excessive overtime pay expenses currently being incurred.

Fees for Faculty, Staff, and Community members were substantially increased last year. No further increase is proposed this year, as fees are near the community standards, and this usage/revenue would possibly fall if there were further increases at this time.

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The director has proposed an **extension of operating hours** for Recreation Center, perhaps on a trial basis. This has not been approved, to date.

There have been ongoing **improvements to the facility**, some not so apparent, with HVAV reprogramming, changeover to more efficient lighting, new equipment purchase, including stationary bikes, rowing machines, and sanitary towels at many places to cut down on spread of infection, specifically MRSA. New, brighter outside lighting will be installed soon, in order to improve nighttime safety, and there will be a change in the building admission process to a central 'movie house' like turnstile monitored by a human. Other entrances will be eliminated, but will remain viable exits.

The old outdoor handball courts have been torn down.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2008.

Submitted and presented,

Paul A. Bennett, M.D.

RSS Advisory Board Member for the A/P Staff Council.

Attachments:

- RSS Holiday Operations Schedule
- Aerial view of proposed Rec Center Park