

## **Campus Recreation Advisory Committee**

### **Minutes**

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

4 PM, Large Conference Room, ARC

**Attendees:** Scott Havlir (Chair), LaWanda Cook, Becki Galardy, Alyssa Ramirez, Ashley Rodriguez, Kirstin Phelps, Jesse Jones, Dinah Armstead

**Absent:** Bill Goodman, Jen Themanson, Paul Cruse III, Sheena Johnson, Michael McDonough, Pat Szuta, Dan Marcus

**Guests:** Michael DeLorenzo, Gary Miller, Bill Williamson, Tony Clements (Ex-Officio), Michael Danielson, Jayne DeLuce, Robyn Deterding, Oscee Wheatfall, Erik Riha

#### **1. Introduction of the Interim Director, Michael DeLorenzo, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs – Tony Clements**

#### **2. Vision for Spring – Michael DeLorenzo**

- Mr. DeLorenzo first recognized Tony for his long career with the University and with Campus Recreation. His vision and global thinking were greatly appreciated, as he truly desired the best for everyone in the University community.
- As the Interim, Mr. DeLorenzo provided some explanation about to expect over the course of the semester:
  - i. The number one goal: to fill the Director of Campus Recreation position. We intend to have this position filled as soon as possible, with someone on board by the beginning of August (at the latest).
    1. The paperwork will be finished up within the next few weeks, and then the job will be posted after the Selection Committee has been finalized. There will be a variety of mediums used to promote this position, including, but not limited to: NACAS, NIRSA, Diversity Magazine and The Tribune. The deadline to apply is set for the beginning of April.
    2. As for the actual interview and selection process, selected candidates will be brought to campus for a day (or so) to do interviews and meet with various campus constituencies.
  - ii. Secondary goals include: assessing Campus Recreation programs, strategizing energy-saving methods, analyzing new features and

recommending improvements. We will work with a timeline that evaluates now and makes adjustments during the summer months.

- iii. One of the biggest projects will be to assess the future of the Ice Arena. Currently, the Ice Arena is one of the oldest in the country, with strong need for improvement. The goal is to develop strategic plans for the Ice Arena, both for the short term and long term, which will recommend enhancements from a financial perspective. One major concern about a renovation is that closing the facility would jeopardize community access to the space; therefore, Campus Recreation and the University intend to make every effort to avoid this option. Currently, the professional staff are compiling a list of professionals who could assist with the changes we wish to see in the Ice Arena.
- iv. Overall, Michael voiced confidence with the semester. Director Clements has left a great staff and a great facility to work with.
- Questions?
  - i. Scott: What do you mean by changes to the Ice Arena?  
A: Specifically, the Ice Arena has large infrastructure issues which need to be addressed, but the goal is to avoid knocking it down. We will be completing a feasibility study to look at strategic steps.

### **3. Review of Minutes from November Meeting of Fall 2008 Semester – Ashley Rodriguez**

- Brief review of the previous meetings' minutes. Specific things mentioned were the changes to the budget and building updates.
- Also, STUDENTS: please note that if you are interested in participating on the search committee for Director Clements' replacement, please do let me know as soon as possible. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity, to which you would gain extensive insight into the hiring process, as well as other factors. Again, you must be available over the summer months. Thank you!

### **4. Updates, Flood Study Results, Parking – Gary Miller**

- From a user standpoint, the ARC is completely operational, but there are some behind-the-scenes aspects that still need to be completed. We to hope to reach full completion by the fall.
- Specific projects that need to be completed include:
  - i. Door positioning switches – these will allow us to know when doors open in the building and why. Also, this will provide for a more safe and secure location for everyone in the building.
  - ii. Along the same safety function, the security cameras in the facility will be activated soon.
  - iii. As for bicycle parking, we currently have two, functioning parking lots, with a third one ready to be paved when the weather improves.

- iv. Landscaping for the front of the building will begin as soon as weather permits. To support the sustainability initiative, all trees and vegetation are native plants which will not require watering.
- As for the flooding problems experienced previously, we have spoken with the engineering firm and received several suggestions, ranging in cost from \$71,000 - \$300,000. We are currently negotiating and discussing the best options.
- The floor in MP6 has been completed; it looks great.
- We are still working with Parking about the west lot. As you may know, some spots are metered and some are not. Despite frustration, we continue to inform them about our problem, as February is our busiest time period. After some complaints, they gave us 30 spots back, but the situation remains negative at present.
- Questions?
  - i. Scott: Is there a budget for the improvements concerning flooding?  
A: The money to fund to solution will come from the Program Budget.
  - ii. Bill: As for other plans for the future, will the Division be taking suggestions or providing a way for patrons to voice their concerns and ideas? A: Patrons can certainly email us their comments, which is the function available to them now. Also, Marketing will be creating an online message board for users to provide suggestions, voice concerns, etc. The vision for this medium is that all messages will receive a response within 48 hours.
  - iii. Alyssa: Why have the fire alarms been going off so frequently? A: The first alarm occurred because a sprinkler head was hit and it triggered the alarm. Then, it happened again because the alarm reset itself before the sprinklers were refilled; thus, when they messed with it, the alarm went off. We are making every effort to avoid this problem in the future. Likewise, due to the cold weather, we realize that there are concerns about having to go outside during the sub-zero weather. However, our emergency exit plan allows us to stage people in areas like the Winter Garden or by the back door on the Concourse Level until the source of the alarm has been identified. If we cannot identify the source, we are required to move everyone outside via the closest exits. Still, we will always notify users of a problem and will always encourage patrons to leave the facility, but it is important to note that we are not responsible to, nor will we, drag people out of the facility kicking and screaming.
  - iv. Becki: Has Campus Recreation considered drilling students / patrons on the evacuation procedures? A: The professional staff are required to know what is supposed to happen in the event of an emergency; they will help in times of need. Likewise, the students are required to take tests on emergency evacuation so that they know what to do. However, since the alarm has been activated

several times this year, doing a drill at this point is not necessarily the best idea. We have witnessed that our staff are prepared and equipped to handle any situation, which is the most important thing.

- v. Scott: Can we prevent these alarms from going off in the manner that they were previously? A: We have already informed people that the alarms reset themselves overnight; therefore, this should prevent an alarm from going off when sprinklers need to be refilled. Additionally, we are going to change the acceptable indoor ball that can be used in the facility. This ball is heavier and should prevent a ball from hitting a sprinkler head, subsequently setting off the alarm. Finally, we plan to put a net over the entire ceiling so that the sprinkler heads are protected.

## **5. Hot Hands – Erik Riha**

- The University of Illinois is part of a test group to evaluate a text messaging procedure that will notify students about major issues or changes within Campus Recreation. From our standpoint, this will be very beneficial for units such as Intramurals, in that we will be able to send notifications about game cancellations, reminders about captain's meetings etcetera.
- Currently, we have a contract with Hot Hands Wireless which will allow us to provide a link from our website for students to sign up for the service. This service will allow students to receive texts from Campus Recreation a couple times monthly, depending on their specifications.
- Hot Hands will also allow us to create a Campus Recreation mobile website. This type of website is less detailed, providing only the Campus Recreation logo with main links to information such as facility schedules, contact information, etcetera.
- Hot Hands is a free service to Campus Recreation with advertising built into the system; however, please note that people who use this service are not sent advertisements.
- From a Campus Recreation standpoint, this service will help us avoid future confrontations that occur as a result of students not complying with our policies e.g. a team is ineligible for playoffs if they miss the captain's meeting. By having a reminder service, Campus Recreation will be doing everything that it can from this end to make sure that it is covered in future discrepancies.
- We hope to have this service rolled out in a few weeks.

## **6. Intramurals' Changes – Oscee Wheatfall**

- The Intramurals unit has evaluated several of its procedures and is in the process of making some changes:
  - i. Captain's tests: These tests were used to make sure that captains were aware of and informed about the rules of the game. We are

considering eliminating these tests, and simply requiring attendance to a meeting.

- ii. Captain's meetings: These meetings have been required of team captains in the past. Previously, the rule stated that in order for your team to participate in the playoffs (assuming the team qualifies) the captain must have attended the meeting at the beginning of the season. However, due to a large absence of captains at the meetings, therefore resulting in confrontational incidents upon the beginning of playoffs, we will be changing this policy. Now, the meetings will still be required, but they may be attended by any member of the team. Also, they will be offered over a 2-day time period. We hope that these efforts will cover Campus Recreation and will prevent teams from having an excuse for not attending a meeting.
- Soccer playoffs will be the week after Spring Break. Also, we have opened up soccer slots to accommodate more teams and get more teams in the playoffs.
  - This past fall, there were significant problems with the football season because of the poor weather. As a result, we are analyzing numbers and timing of the football season so that we can avoid problems in the future.

## **7. Lead On Conference – Michael Danielson**

- This upcoming weekend, Campus Recreation will be hosting a national leadership conference called Lead On. The emphasis of this conference is on student development and preparing student leaders. Information about the event and each program / session is available on the Campus Recreation website.
- Students from across the region have been working [with Mr. Danielson as the professional lead] to plan this event and have been responsible for the majority of the program coordination. All staff have been played an active role and worked hard on this event, as well.
- Currently, we have about 300 participants signed up. These participants represent about twenty states and two countries.
- The theme for Lead On is DIG (Discover. Inspire. Grow.), which encourages continual development as leaders. The idea of leadership will be supported by a Student Development Room, where students will be able to network with professionals and discuss future opportunities within recreation, specifically for graduate assistantships and professional positions. There will also be mock interviews and a resume review process.
- This is the first major conference held at the ARC. There will be various social events during the weekend, at the ARC and CRCE.
- Host sites include: Campus Recreation (ARC), I-Hotel, Hawthorne Suites
- To uphold our sustainability initiative, there will be no paper handouts at the conference. Likewise, students will receive a reusable bag, made entirely from recycled materials. Still, participants will get a water bottle

to use and take home with them; no other bottles of water will be passed out. There will be water refill stations around the facility for students to use.

- If you are interested in attending any part of the conference, please remember to wear the orange wrist band upon entering the ARC so that you will be admitted into the programs.

## **8. Final Notes, Reminders, Other Questions – Ashley Rodriguez**

- Questions:
  - i. Bill: Why has the photo-ID camera been moved to the ARC only?  
A: The goal is have one camera at both facilities, but unfortunately it will remain solely at the ARC for the time being.
  - ii. Bill: This past winter, the facilities closed for a two-week break. Will this become an annual close? If so, Why? A: This will probably become an annual close, so that the majority of maintenance issues can be resolved. The time frame of winter break is ideal because of the historically low attendance. This close will allow for significant conservation of energy, will decrease the cost of annual operations and will allow for a well-needed deep cleaning of each facility. In the future, Campus Recreation will communicate open / close dates to the users who purchase a locker in order to avoid any frustration that the close may cause. In knowing this close information, the user can decide to purchase or decline locker rental accordingly. The Division of Campus Recreation certainly will [continue to] do its best to work with and consider the needs of the users.